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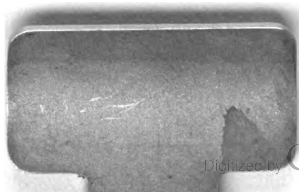
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Prayers we love to p

Prayers
we Love
to
Pray



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PRAYERS WE LOVE TO PRAY

Including the World's
Greatest Prayers Suitable
for Private Devotion

Selected and Arranged by
EDWARD LEIGH PELL



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
Robert Harding Company

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Foreword

THIS BOOK is intended for devotional reading rather than for the ordinary uses of a manual of prayer. Hence minute classification has been avoided, it being deemed unwise to interrupt the quiet flow of the reader's thought with numerous headings or other marks of division. Hence, also, many prayers of great beauty and excellence have been omitted as being unsuited to private devotion.

For the material used in this volume we are indebted to the usual sources, too numerous and well known to need mention, and in addition to the authors and publishers of several prayers, for the use of which proper acknowledgement is made in the body of the book.

Mrs. D. Baines-Griffiths, D.I., '24

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Our Father which art in
heaven, Hallowed be
Thy name. Thy king-
dom come. Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us
from evil: For Thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, for ever---Amen.

Morning

O GOD, Who art the unsearchable
abyss of peace, the ineffable sea of
love, the fountain of blessings, and
the bestower of affection, Who sendest
peace to those that receive it; open to us
this day the sea of Thy love, and water us
with plenteous streams from the riches of
Thy grace, and from the most sweet
springs of Thy benignity. Make us chil-
dren of quietness, and heirs of peace. En-
kindle in us the fire of Thy love; sow in us
Thy fear; strengthen our weakness by Thy
power; bind us closely to Thee and to each
other in one firm and indissoluble bond of
unity—Amen.

—*Syrian Clementine Liturgy.*



INCLINE, O Lord, Thy merciful ears,
and illuminate the darkness of our hearts
by the light of Thy visitation—Amen.

—*Gelasian Sacramentary, A. D. 492.*

GRANT me, O most loving Lord, to rest in Thee above all creatures, above all health and beauty, above all glory and honor, above all power and dignity, above all knowledge and subtilty, above all riches and art, above all fame and praise, above all sweetness and comfort, above all hope and promise, above all gifts and favors that Thou canst give and impart to us, above all jubilee that the mind of man can receive and feel; finally, above angels and archangels, and above all the heavenly host, above all things visible and invisible, and above all that Thou art not, O my God. It is too small and unsatisfying, whatsoever Thou bestowest on me apart from Thee, or revealest to me, or promisest, whilst Thou art not seen, and not fully obtained. For surely my heart cannot truly rest, nor be entirely contented, unless it rest in Thee—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*

O LORD, I fling myself with all my weakness and misery into Thy ever-open arms. I know that I am ignorant and much mistaken about myself. Thou, who seest in very truth, look mercifully on me. Lay Thy healing hand upon my wounds. Pour the life-giving balm of Thy love into my heart. Do for me what I have not the courage to do for myself. Save me in spite of myself. May I be Thine; wholly Thine, and, at all costs, Thine. In humiliation, in poverty, in suffering, in self-abnegation, Thine. Thine in the way Thou knowest to be most fitting, in order that Thou mightest be now and ever mine. Thou art my Strength and my Redeemer. I am Thy poor little creature, dependent on Thy merciful charity alone—Amen.

—*Père Besson.*



LORD, here let my love to Thee grow, and there may it ripen; that my joy being here great in hope, may there in fruition be made perfect.

—*St. Anselm.*

O LORD, grant that my heart may be truly cleansed and filled with Thy Holy Spirit, and that I may arise to serve Thee, and lie down to sleep in entire confidence in Thee, and submission to Thy will, ready for life or for death. Let me live for the day, not overcharged with worldly cares, but feeling that my treasure is not here, and desiring truly to be joined to Thee in Thy Heavenly Kingdom, and to those who are already gone to Thee. O Lord, save me from sin, and guide me with Thy Spirit, and keep me in faithful obedience to Thee, through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord—Amen.

—*Thomas Arnold.*

TEACH me, O Father, how to ask Thee each moment, silently, for Thy help. If I fail, teach me at once to ask Thee to forgive me. If I am disquieted, enable me, by Thy grace, quickly to turn to Thee. May nothing this day come between me and Thee. May I will, do, and say, just what Thou, my loving and tender Father, willest me to will, do, and say. Work Thy holy will in me and through me this day. Protect me, guide me, bless me, within and without, that I may do something this day for love of Thee; something which shall please Thee; and that I may, this evening, be nearer to Thee, though I see it not, nor know it. Lead me, O Lord, in a straight way unto Thyself, and keep me in Thy grace unto the end—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*



12 Prayers We Love to Pray

ALMIGHTY God, we bless and praise Thee that we have wakened to the light of another earthly day; and now we will think of what a day should be. Our days are Thine, let them be spent for Thee. Our days are few, let them be spent with care. There are dark days behind us, forgive their sinfulness; there may be dark days before us, strengthen us for their trials. We pray Thee to shine on this day—the day which we may call our own. Lord, we go to our daily work; help us to take pleasure therein. Show us clearly what our duty is; help us to be faithful in doing it. Let all we do be well done, fit for Thine eye to see. Give us strength to do, patience to bear; let our courage never fail. When we cannot love our work, let us think of it as Thy task; and, by our true love to Thee, make unlovely things shine in the light of Thy great love—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

I ASK, dear Lord, that Thou wouldest make me wholly Thine. Penetrate me wholly with Thyself, that Thou mayest be all in all in me; be Thou the Soul of my soul. Lord, I am weary of myself, weary of being so unlike Thee, of being so far away from Thee. Abide with me, then,—abide in me. Let no sorrow keep me away from Thee; let no loneliness or desolation of soul affright me. Let me not think of Thee as one afar off; let me not think of Thee as a severe judge, since Thou Thyself comest unto me, and fallest on the neck of Thy poor prodigal, and givest me the kiss of peace. Thou wilt not let those go empty away who come to Thee from far. Lord, I am come to Thee from far, the far-off land of my miseries and my sins. But Thou hast brought me nigh—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

14 Prayers We Love to Pray

O GOD, our true life, in Whom and by Whom all things live, Thou commandest us to seek Thee, and art ready to be found; Thou biddest us knock, and openest when we do so. To know Thee is life, to serve Thee is freedom, to enjoy Thee is a kingdom, to praise Thee is the joy and happiness of the soul. I praise, and bless, and adore Thee, I worship Thee, I glorify Thee, I give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. I humbly beseech Thee to abide with me, to reign in me, to make this heart of mine a holy temple, a fit habitation for Thy Divine majesty. O Thou Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible! keep, I beseech Thee, the work of Thine own hands, who trusts in Thy mercy alone for safety and protection. Guard me with the power of Thy grace, here and in all places, now and at all times, forevermore—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*

WHEN we are awake, we are still
with Thee, O God most merciful,
and Thy hand is over us for good.

Be Thou the Desire of our hearts, and the
Ruler of our thoughts. O heavenly Father,
we need Thy love and Thy calm breath
shed abroad in our souls to be a fountain
of strength; we know not without Thee
what may befall us this day, either of peril,
or of temptation, or of sorrow. But Thou
canst put a guard about our path, and canst
fence all our senses from temptation by
sobering them with Thy holy fear. Give
us, then, we pray Thee, a right sense of
duty, to shield us in all conflict, and guard
us against sin and death. Lead us not into
temptation; or, when we are tempted, de-
liver us by humble watchfulness from all
power of evil—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast brought me to the beginning of another year, grant me so to remember Thy gifts, and so to acknowledge Thy goodness, as that every year and day which Thou shalt yet grant me, may be employed in the amendment of my life, and in the diligent discharge of such duties as Thy Providence shall allot me. Grant me, by Thy Grace, to know and to do what Thou requirest. Give me good desires, and remove those impediments which may hinder them from effect. Forgive me my sins, negligences, and ignorances, and when at last Thou shalt call me to another life, receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Samuel Johnson.*



POUR upon us, O Lord, the spirit of brotherly kindness and peace; so that, sprinkled with the dew of Thy benediction, we may be made glad by Thy glory and grace; through Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Sarum Breviary.*

THY way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be;
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.

I dare not choose my lot,
I would not if I might,
Choose Thou for me, my God,
So shall I walk aright.

Take Thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem;
Choose Thou my good and ill.

Not mine, not mine the choice,
In things or great or small;
Be Thou my guide, my strength,
My wisdom, and my all.

—H. Bonar.

MOST gracious God, who hast been infinitely merciful to us, not only in the year past, but through all the years of our lives, be pleased to accept our most unfeigned thanks for Thine innumerable blessings to us; graciously pardoning the manifold sins and infirmities of our lives past, and bountifully bestowing upon us all those graces and virtues, which may render us acceptable to Thee. And, every year which Thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives, add also, we humbly implore Thee, more strength to our faith, more ardor to our love, and a greater perfection to our obedience; and grant that, in a humble sincerity and constant perseverance, we may serve Thee most faithfully the remainder of our lives, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

TEACH me, O Lord, and enable me to live the life of saints and angels. Take me out of the languor, the irritability, the sensitiveness, the anarchy, in which my soul lies, and fill it with Thy fulness. Breathe on me with that Breath which infuses energy and kindles fervor. In asking for fervor, I ask for all that I can need. In asking for fervor, I am asking for faith, hope, and charity, in their most heavenly exercise; I am asking for that loyal perception of duty, which follows on yearning affection; I am asking for sanctity, peace, and joy, all at once. Nothing would be a trouble to me, nothing a difficulty, had I but fervor of soul. Lord, in asking for fervor, I am asking for Thyself, for nothing short of Thee, O my God. Enter my heart, and fill it with fervor by filling it with Thee—Amen.

—*John Henry Newman.*

LORD, increase our faith. Enable us to place our confidence where Thou hast laid our help; enable us to build our hopes on the foundation Thou hast laid. Lord Jesus, Thou art mighty to save, stretch out Thine hand to help us. Cleanse us in Thy blood. Clothe us in Thy righteousness. Deny not Thy grace. Withhold not Thy enlightening Spirit. And now, O God of providence and grace, we cast ourselves on Thee. Sustain us in the duties and trials and temptations of the day. Make Thy grace sufficient for us. Send Thy light forth to lead and guide us. Open Thy hand wide and satisfy us with good, the good that we need for the life that now is, and the better blessings of the life to come. Forgive our sin; accept our thanksgiving; and send an answer to our prayer, for our Redeemer's sake—Amen.

—*William Arnot.*

THOU, who art the true Sun of the world, evermore rising, and never going down; who by Thy most wholesome appearing and sight dost nourish, and make joyful all things, as well that are in heaven, as also that are on earth; we beseech Thee mercifully and favorably to shine into our hearts, that the night and darkness of sin, and the mists of error on every side, being driven away, Thou brightly shining within our hearts, we may all our life long go without any stumbling or offence, and may walk as in the day-time, being pure and clean from the works of darkness, and abounding in all good works which Thou hast prepared for us to walk in—Amen.

—*Erasmus.*

WE give Thee thanks, yea, more than thanks, O Lord our God, for all Thy goodness at all times and in all places, because Thou hast shielded, rescued, helped, and guided us all the days of our lives, and brought us unto this hour. We pray and beseech Thee, merciful God, to grant in Thy goodness that we may spend this day, and all the time of our lives, without sin, in fulness of joy, holiness, and reverence of Thee. But drive away from us, O Lord, all envy, all fear, and all temptations. Bestow upon us what is good and meet. Whatever sin we commit in thought, word, or deed, do Thou in Thy goodness and mercy be pleased to pardon. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, through the grace, mercy, and love of Thine only begotten Son—Amen.

—*Liturgy of St. Mark* (175-254?).

LORD, I know not what is before me this day, but Thou knowest. I desire to leave all in Thy hands, and to place myself at Thy disposal. Do for me as Thou seest best. Prosper me in all that I undertake. Give me good success, if it be Thy will. But, if Thou seest that crosses and disappointments are better for me, give me grace to accept them as from Thee. Enable me to bear them meekly and cheerfully, and to say, Father, not my will, but Thine, be done. O my God, make me happy this day in Thy service. Keep my conscience void of offence. Let me do nothing, say nothing, desire nothing, which is contrary to Thy will. Give me a thankful spirit. O for a heart to praise Thee for all that Thou hast given me, and for all that Thou hast withheld from me—Amen.

—*Ashton Oxenden.*

24 Prayers We Love to Pray

WE most earnestly beseech Thee, O Thou Lover of mankind, to bless all Thy people, the flocks of Thy fold. Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven, and grant us also the peace of this life. Give life to the souls of all of us, and let no deadly sin prevail against us, or any of Thy people. Deliver all who are in trouble, for Thou art our God, who settest the captives free; who givest hope to the hopeless, and help to the helpless; who liftest up the fallen; and who art the Haven of the shipwrecked. Give Thy pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul, whether in affliction or error. Preserve us, in our pilgrimage through this life, from hurt and danger, and grant that we may end our lives as Christians, well-pleasing to Thee and free from sin, and that we may have our portion and lot with all Thy saints—Amen.

—*Liturgy of St. Mark.*

THOUGH we know not what is best,
give to us, Lord, what Thou seest fit;
only fit us for what Thou givest, and
let it bring to our souls health and peace,
with some good to our neighbor and the
world, for Thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

Make me to Thyself a temple of holy
things, and abiding with me, O Lord, at the
last, be ever gracious unto Thy servant.

Let me do some work which may be ac-
cepted in Thy mercy, though unworthy in
Thy pure sight.

Bless my work to good, to the fulness of
which it is capable, and let me thank Thee
for it with joy in the end.

Into Thy hands we commend our spirit,
soul, and body, of which Thou art Creator,
Saviour, Restorer, a God of truth.

Lord, to Thee I commit my going out
and my coming in this day—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

MOST holy and eternal God, Lord and Sovereign of all, we humbly present to Thy divine Majesty ourselves, our souls and our bodies, our thoughts and our words, our intentions and our actions, to be disposed by Thee to Thy glory, to be blessed by Thy providence, to be guided by Thy counsel, to be sanctified by Thy Spirit. This day, O Lord, and all the days of our lives, we dedicate to Thy honor and the duties of our several callings, to the use of Thy grace and the fulfilment of Thy holy commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.



O GOD, who art Love, grant to Thy children to bear one another's burdens in perfect good-will, that Thy peace which passeth understanding may keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord—Amen.

—*Book of Hours.*

IN THEE, O Lord God, I place my whole hope and refuge; on Thee I rest — all my tribulation and anguish; for I find all to be weak and inconstant, whatsoever I behold out of Thee. For many friends cannot profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any place, however retired and lovely, give shelter, unless Thou Thyself dost assist, strengthen, console, instruct and guard us. For all things that seem to belong to the attainment of peace and felicity, without Thee, are nothing, and do bring in truth no felicity at all. Thou therefore art the Fountain of all that is good, and to hope in Thee above all things, is the strongest comfort of Thy servants. To Thee, therefore, do I lift up mine eyes; in Thee, my God, the Father of mercies, do I put my trust—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*

O GOD, the day may have shadows for us, or it may bring to us hardship and self-denial; but we shall not be afraid. Our path through gloom shall lead to joy and peace. So we will press on in patient self-denial, accepting the hardship, not shrinking from the loss. Our blessing lies beyond the hour of trial, our crown beyond the cross. Let us not falter in any experience. Let not the world have dominion over us to-day. Help us to fix our eyes on the heavenly hills, and press on to the glory that waits for us there with Thee. Hear us, O God, and grant to us Thy blessing and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*J. R. Miller.*

O LORD, lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us: let Thy peace rule in our hearts; and may it be our strength and our song, in the house of our pilgrimage. We commit ourselves to Thy care and keeping this day; let Thy grace be mighty in us, and sufficient for us, and let it work in us both to will and to do of Thine own good pleasure, and grant us strength for all the duties of the day. Keep us from sin; give us the rule over our own spirits; and keep us from speaking unadvisedly with our lips. May we live together in peace and holy love, and do Thou command Thy blessing upon us, even life for evermore. Prepare us for all the events of the day, for we know not what a day may bring forth. Give us grace to deny ourselves; to take up our cross daily, and to follow in the steps of our Lord and Master—Amen.

—*Matthew Henry.*

30 Prayers We Love to Pray

LORD, for to-morrow and its needs,
I do not pray;
Keep me from stain of sin,
Just for to-day.

Let me both diligently work,
And duly pray;
Let me be kind in word and deed
Just for to-day.

Let me no wrong or idle word
Unthinking say;
Set Thou a seal upon my lips
Just for to-day.

So for to-morrow and its needs
I do not pray,
But keep me, guide me, hold me,
Just for to-day.

—*Canon Farrar.*

W'ARM my cold heart, Lord, I beseech Thee. Take away all that hinders me from giving myself to Thee. Mould me according to Thine own image. Give me grace to obey Thee in all things, and ever to follow Thy gracious leading. Make me this day to be kind to my fellowmen, to be gentle and unselfish, careful to hurt no one by word or deed, but anxious to do good to all, and to make others happy. O Lord, forgive the sins of my temper. Pardon all my hasty words and unchristian thoughts. Make me watchful, that I offend not with my tongue. Give me a meek and loving spirit, which is in Thy sight of great price. I would not live unto myself, but unto Thee. Keep me from sin this day, and all that may offend Thee; for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Ashton Oxenden.*

ETERNAL God, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of darkness and the day; there is no light but Thine, without, within. As Thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with Thy morning upon our souls; quicken all our labor and our prayer; and though all else declines, let the noon-tide of Thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of Him who, with fewest hours, finished Thy divinest work, Thy Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ—Amen.



LIVING or dying, Lord, I would be Thine; keep me Thine own for ever, and draw me day by day nearer to Thyself, until I be wholly filled with Thy love, and fitted to behold Thee, face to face—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

THOU most holy and ever-loving God, we thank Thee once more for the quiet rest of the night that has gone by, for the new promise that has come with this fresh morning, and for the hope of this day. While we have slept, the world in which we live has swept on in its awful space, great fires have burned under us, great waters have been all about us, and great storms above us; but Thou hast held them back by Thy strong hand, and we have rested under the shadow of Thy love. The bird sat on the spray out in the darkness, the flower nestled in the grass, we lay down in our home, and all slept in the arms of God. The bird will trust Thee this day to give its morsel of meat, and the flower will trust Thee for its fresh raiment; so may we trust Thee this day for all the needs of the body, the soul, and the spirit. Give us this day our daily bread—Amen.

—*Robert Collyer.*

34 Prayers We Love to Pray

THE day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces, let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep.

—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*



GRANT, us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace without stumbling and without stain; that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise Thee, the eternal God, who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end—Amen.

—*Mozarabic Liturgy.*

FOR flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass so fresh and sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

36 Prayers We Love to Pray

O LORD, infinite in mercy, and Whose goodness is everlasting: hear our prayer, and turn us away from all that can separate us from Thee, and make us to love that which tends to draw us unto Thee. So rule our hearts that we may seek and long for and possess Thee only. Be it our pain to lose Thee, and our only gain to love Thee more and more. Teach us to bear the burden of the flesh without sinning against Thee, to be willing to endure the suffering which Thou dost lay upon us in love, and to submit ourselves entirely to Thy will. Raise our desires and hopes, our whole powers and life, unto Thy holy and loving service. Bestow upon us what Thou seest us to need, and fit us to receive the good which Thou desirest to give, O Thou Who alone art our Life, our Light and our Salvation; Who with, etc.

O JESUS, by Thy infinite compassion,
by Thy love passing all human telling,
Thou hast conquered me. I am
come to Thee. Take my life, poor, weak,
insufficient by every standard of human
measurement, but let Thy life flow into it,
through it, that my life may make some
little contribution to the realization of Thy
great purpose.

Lord Jesus, from to-day let me more
than ever be a gatherer of Thine. Prevent
me from scattering. Do this, Lord, by tak-
ing more complete possession of me than
ever before. To this I yield to Thee all I
am, and have, and hope for, in order that
through me some part of Thy kingdom
may come and Thy will be done—Amen.

—*G. Campbell Morgan.*



O LORD, give us all grace, by constant
obedience to offer up our wills and hearts
an acceptable sacrifice unto Thee—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*

38 Prayers We Love to Pray

I DESIRE, O God, this day most earnestly to please Thee; to do Thy will in each several thing which Thou shalt give me to do; to bear each thing which Thou shalt allow to befall me contrary to my will, meekly, humbly, patiently, as a gift from Thee to subdue self-will in me; and to make Thy will wholly mine. What I do, make me do simply as Thy child; let me be throughout the day, as a child in his loving father's presence, ever looking up to Thee. May I love Thee for all Thy love. May I thank Thee, if not in words, yet in my heart, for each gift of Thy love, for each comfort which Thou allowest me day by day—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

WE would cast all our cares on Thee, knowing and rejoicing that Thou "carest for us" in a way and measure that the nearest and fondest on earth knows nothing of. Seeing Thou hast loved us with such an overflowing and everlasting love, may we love Thee better in return; may we not requite Thee with coldness and unthankfulness. May the best of our thoughts, and the best of our lives, and the best of our time, be surrendered freely to Thee. Let us trust in Thee in everything; let us see Thy faithfulness in every event in our chequered and changing histories.

Be Thou with us throughout this day; sanctify all its duties; go with us where we go, dwell with us where we dwell; may we pitch our tent ever near Thyself, and then we shall be safe. Hear us, gracious God, and accept of us for the Redeemer's sake—Amen.

—*John R. MacDuff.*

BLESSED art Thou, O Lord, our God, the God of our fathers, Who turnest the shadow of death into the morning; Who hast lightened mine eyes, that I sleep not in death. O Lord, blot out as a night-mist mine iniquities. Scatter my sins as a morning cloud. Grant that I may become a child of the light, and of the day. Vouchsafe to keep me this day without sin. Uphold me when I am falling, and lift me up when I am down. Preserve this day from any evil of mine and me from the evils of the day. Let this day add some knowledge, or good deed, to yesterday. O, let me hear of Thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in Thee is my trust. Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God. Let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness—Amen.

—*Lancelot Andrews.*

ETERNAL God, Who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life; since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving Thee is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of Thy holy will; not waiting for to-morrow; but yielding to-day. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of Thy Spirit, the resistance of our passion, indolence or fear. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet may go; and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest places be made plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust into faith and hope and charity by a simple and steadfast reliance on Thy sure will. In all things draw us to the mind of Christ, that Thy lost image may be traced again, and Thou mayest own us as at one with Him and Thee—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

42 Prayers We Love to Pray

O FATHER, this day may bring some hard task to our life, or some hard trial to our love. We may grow weary, or sad, or hopeless in our lot. But, Father, our whole life until now has been one great proof of Thy care. Bread has come for our body, thoughts to our mind, love to our heart, and all from Thee. So help us, we implore Thee, while we stand still on this side of all that the day may bring, to resolve that we will trust Thee this day to shine into any gloom of the mind, to stand by us in any trial of our love, and to give us rest in Thy good time as we need. May this day be full of a power that shall bring us near to Thee, and make us more like Thee; and, O God, may we so trust Thee this day, that, when the day is done, our trust shall be firmer than ever. Then, when our last day comes, and our work is done, may we trust Thee in death and forever, in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Robert Collyer.*

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Thy Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever—Amen.



ALMIGHTY God, unto Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy Holy Name; through Christ our Lord—Amen.

44 Prayers We Love to Pray

WE give Thee thanks, Holy Lord,
Father Almighty, everlasting God,
Who hast been pleased to bring
us through the night to the hours of morn-
ing; we pray Thee to grant us to pass this
day without sin, so that at eventide we may
again give thanks to Thee; through Jesus
Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gelasian.*



O MAKE Thy way plain before my
face, support me this day under all diffi-
culties I shall meet with. I offer myself to
Thee, O God, this day to do in me, and
with me, as to Thee seems most meet—
Amen.

—*Thomas Wilson.*

OUR Saviour and our God, fix our souls on Thee, and let them not be anxious save that Thou shouldest make them what Thou lovest and dost will them to be. May Thy mercy overpower our sin, Thy strength uphold our weakness, Thy peace dispel our sadness, Thy fulness supply our need, Thy blood cleanse us wholly, that we may persevere in Thy grace, and be fitted to be presented unto Thee, holy through Thy holiness, clean through Thy cleansing, pure through Thy purity, loving through Thy love. Be Thou all in all to us to the end, and in the end; be Thou, good Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, all to us all throughout eternity; for Thy tender mercy and Thy pity's sake—Amen.

46 Prayers We Love to Pray

O LORD, Who hast mercy upon all,
take away from me my sins, and
mercifully kindle in me the fire of
Thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the
heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to
delight in Thee, to follow and to enjoy
Thee, for Christ's sake—Amen.

—*St. Ambrose.*



ENLARGE our souls with a divine
charity, that we may hope all things, en-
dure all things, and become messengers
of Thy healing mercy, to the grievances
and infirmities of men. In all things attune
our hearts to the holiness and harmony of
Thy kingdom, and hasten the time when
Thy kingdom shall come and Thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

GRANT unto us, O Lord God, that we may love one another unfeignedly; for where love is, there art Thou; and he that loveth his brother is born of Thee, and dwelleth in Thee, and Thou in him. And where brethren do glorify Thee with one accord, there dost Thou pour out Thy blessing upon them. Love us, therefore, O Lord, and shed Thy love into our hearts, that we may love Thee, and our brethren in Thee and for Thee, as all children to Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Book of Christian Prayers.*



BLESSED Lord, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve Thee as Thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek reward, save that of feeling that I do Thy will—Amen.

48 Prayers We Love to Pray

O LORD, strengthen and support, I entreat Thee, all persons unjustly accused or underrated. Comfort them by the ever-present thought that Thou knowest the whole truth, and wilt in Thine own good time make their righteousness as clear as the light. Give them grace to pray for such as do them wrong, and hear and bless them when they pray—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*



LORD, hear; Lord, forgive; Lord, do; hear what I speak not, forgive what I speak amiss, do what I leave undone; that, not according to my word or my deed, but according to Thy mercy and truth, all may issue to Thy glory and the good of Thy kingdom—Amen

—*Maria Hare.*

O HEAVENLY Father, Who watchest always over Thy faithful people, and mightily defendest them, so that they be harmless preserved, I most heartily thank Thee, that it hath pleased Thy fatherly goodness to take care of me this night past. I most earnestly beseech Thee, O most merciful Father, to show the like kindness toward me this day, in preserving my body and soul; that I may neither think, breathe, speak, or do anything that may be displeasing to Thy fatherly goodness, dangerous to myself, or hurtful to my neighbor; but that all my doings may be agreeable to Thy most blessed will, which is always good; that they may advance Thy glory, answer to my vocation, and profit my neighbor, whom I ought to love as myself; that, whensoever Thou callest me hence, I may be found the child not of darkness, but of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Thomas Becon.*

50 Prayers We Love to Pray

O LORD, shew forth Thy loving-kindness, I entreat Thee, to all persons who in this world feel themselves neglected, or little loved, or forgotten. Be Thou their beloved Companion, and let communion with Thee be to them more dear than tenderest earthly intercourses. Teach them to discern Thee in all with whom they come in contact, and to love and serve Thee in them. On earth grant them comfort by the repentance of any who have wronged them, and in heaven comfort in the communion of all saints with each other and with Thee—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*



O GOD, whose never-failing Providence ordereth all things, both in heaven and earth, we humbly beseech Thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gelasian, A. D. 492.*

THOU, O God, the King Eternal, Who dividest the day from the darkness and turnest the shadow of death into morning, drive from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep Thy law, and guide our feet in the ways of peace; that having done Thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may when night cometh rejoice to give Thee thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*John H. Vincent.*



O LORD, make me love every token of Thy will, for love of Thee, and make me cheerful under every cross; take from me all which displeases Thee, or hinders Thy love in me, that I may deeply love Thee. Melt me with Thy love, that I may be all love, and with my whole being love Thee—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

52 Prayers We Love to Pray

DEAR Lord! Kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love
Tenderly to-day!
Weed their hearts of weariness:
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angel-wings
Winnowing the air.

Bring unto the sorrowing
All release from pain;
Let the lips of laughter
Overflow again;
And with all thy needy
O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content
That is mine to-day.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

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WE beseech Thee, O Lord, let our hearts be graciously enlightened by Thy holy radiance, that we may serve Thee without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; that so we may escape the darkness of this world, and by Thy guidance attain the land of eternal brightness; through Thy mercy, O blessed Lord, Who dost live and govern all things, world without end—Amen.

—*Sarum Breviary.*



GRANT us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain; that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise Thee, the eternal God, Who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end—Amen.

? Huchman ?

54 Prayers We Love to Pray

BE Thou favorable unto me, merciful, sweet, and gracious Lord, and grant to me, Thy poor, needy creature, sometimes at least to feel, if it be but a small portion, of Thy hearty affectionate love, that my faith may become more strong, my hope in Thy goodness may be increased, and that love, once kindled within me, may never fail—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*



O GRACIOUS Lord God, who reignest to make of man Thy mirror, that we in one another may behold Thine Image and love Thyself; unto every one of us grant, we beseech Thee, thus to love and thus to be beloved. For Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*

O GOD, our everlasting hope! as disciples of One who had not where to lay His head, may we freely welcome the toils and sufferings of our humanity, and seek only strength to glorify the cross Thou layest on us. Every work of our hand may we do unto Thee; in every trouble, trace some lights of Thine; and let no blessing fall on dry and thankless hearts. Redeeming the time, may we fill every waking hour with faithful duty and well-ordered affections, as the sacrifice which Thou hast provided. Fill us with patient tenderness for others, seeing that we also are in the same case before Thee; and make us ready to help, and quick to forgive. And then, fix every grace, compose every fear, by a steady trust in Thine eternal realities—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

56 **Prayers We Love to Pray**

O THOU Almighty helper and ever-present God, we bring to Thee all our needs. O Thou Author of all good, from Whom cometh every good and perfect gift, may Thy mercies be our daily song, and may the light of Thy countenance in this world of power and beauty move our hearts to great thankfulness and a sweet trust. Day by day Thou dost appoint our portion, especially revealing Thy glory in the dear Son of Thy love, and calling us into His kingdom of service and blessedness. May this be our love of Thee in Him, that we love one another and keep all His commandments—Amen.

—*Rufus Ellis.*



O LORD, forgive what I have been, sanctify what I am, and order what I shall be—Amen

ALMIGHTY God, Maker of heaven and earth, Giver of light and life, so teach us those things which belong to the heavenly kingdom, and those duties which are of the earth, that we, stirred by the light and life of the peace of God, may be enabled faithfully to do the things committed to us, looking ever unto Thee for light and life, that, being lifted above ourselves, the life of God in the soul of man may be ours, and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may then keep our hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*W. H. H. Aitken.*



LORD, take my lips, and speak through them; take my mind, and think through it; take my heart, and set it on fire—Amen.

—*W. H. H. Aitken.*

WE give Thee thanks, Almighty God, for the bread of the body that perisheth, and we beseech Thee to give us that bread by which man's higher life is fed, that we, laying hold of the life that never dies, may thereby be fitted for the troubles and burdens of this life, and look forward with joy to the higher and better life. So may we live in constant childlike trust in Thee, as to believe, though we behold it not, that the end of all things is divine, and to catch the music to which this world is set by Thee. Lead Thou us from the lower life to the better life, that little things may lose their power to vex us, and in the midst of the troubles of this life, we may have the peace of God that passeth all understanding. Of Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy hear us, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

ROCK of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy side, a healing flood,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath, and make me pure.

Should my tears forever flow,
Should my zeal no languor know,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and Thou alone;
In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

—Augustus M. Toplady.

FOR our absent loved ones we implore Thy loving-kindness. Keep them in life, keep them in growing honor; and for us, grant that we may remain worthy of their love. For Christ's sake, let not our beloved blush for us, nor we for them. Grant us but that, and give us courage to endure lesser ills unshaken, and to accept death, loss, and disappointment as it were straws upon the tide of life.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.



O GOD, we love Thee with our whole hearts and above all things, and are heartily sorry that we have offended Thee. May we never offend Thee any more. O may we love Thee without ceasing, and make it our delight to do in all things Thy most holy will—Amen.

O GOD, the King eternal, who dividest the day from darkness, and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far off from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep Thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace, that having done Thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give Thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.



ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gregorian.*

O GOD, our everlasting Refuge! With grateful hearts we lay at Thy feet the folded hours when Thou knowest us but we know not Thee; and with joy receive from Thy hand once more our open task and conscious communion with Thy life and thought. Day by day liken us more to the spirits of the departed wise and good; and fit us in our generation to carry on their work below till we are ready for more perfect union with them above. And if ever we faint under any appointed cross and say, "It is too hard to bear," may we look to the steps of the Man of Sorrows toiling on to Calvary, and pass freely into Thy hand, and become one with Him and Thee. Dedicate us to the joyful service of Thy will; and own us as Thy children in time and in eternity—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

THOU, who has taught us to seek first Thy kingdom and its righteousness, teach me to say, "Thy will be done" before I say, "give me my daily bread." Teach me to accept Thy will as the foundation of my happiness, and other things as only its superstructure. I am more afraid of the hunger of the body than of the hunger of the spirit. Convince me that it would not profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul. Show me that it is only the possession of my soul that makes the possession of the world any gain. Impress me with the truth that no *thing* can give me joy, if I myself am not already joyful. Inspire me with the knowledge that the issues of life are not from without, but from within. Guide me into the discovery that the pleasures at Thy right hand are the only things that are "*pleasures for evermore*"—Amen.

—George Matheson.

SHOW Thy mercy to me, O Lord, to glad my heart withal. Let me find Thee, for whom I long. Lo, here the man that was caught of thieves, wounded, and left for half dead, as he was going towards Jericho. Thou kind-hearted Samaritan, take me up. I am the sheep that is gone astray; O good Shepherd, seek me out, and bring me home to Thy fold again. Deal favorably with me according to Thy good pleasure, that I may dwell in Thy house all the days of my life, and praise Thee for ever and ever with them that are there—Amen.

—*St. Jerome.*



O LORD, mercifully incline Thine ears to hear our prayers, and, of Thy loving-kindness, enlighten the depths of our hearts, that no evil desires may rule them—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*

Evening

O BLESSED God, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, take us into Thy gracious keeping for this night, and make us mindful of that night when the noise of this busy world shall be heard by us no more. O Lord, in Whom we trust, help us by Thy grace so to live that we may never be afraid to die, and grant that at the last, as now, our even-song may be: "I will lay me down in peace and sleep; for Thou, Lord, makest me to dwell in safety"—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*



LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Gelasian, A. D. 492.*

WE beseech Thee, Lord, to behold us with favor, folk of many families and nations gathered together in the peace of this roof, weak men and women subsisting under the covert of Thy patience. Be patient still; suffer us yet awhile longer—with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavors against evils, suffer us awhile longer to endure and (if may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, brace us to play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our Sun and Comforter, and call us up with morning faces and morning hearts—eager to labor—eager to be happy, if happiness shall be

our portion—and if the day be marked to sorrow, strong to endure it.

We thank Thee and praise Thee; and, in the words of Him to Whom this day is sacred, close our oblation—Amen.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

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NIGHT has drawn its veil over the world again, and we come to take refuge in Thee, our Father. Thou art our Refuge and our Strength, a very present Help in trouble. We fear not the darkness, for Thou art in it. It is but Thy garment enfolding Thee. Thou art as truly in the darkness as in the light. May the wings of night be to us the wings of God, under whose shadow we shall find refuge, warmth and blessing—Amen.

—J. R. Miller,

O GOD, Who leadest us through seasons of life to be partakers of Thine eternity; the shadows of our evening hasten on. Quicken us betimes: and spare us that sad word, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Anew we dedicate ourselves to Thee. We would ask nothing, reserve nothing, for ourselves, save only leave to go whither Thou mayest guide, to live not far from Thee, and die into Thy nearer light. Content to accept the reproach of truth, we would take upon us the yoke of Christ, Whom it behooved to suffer ere He entered into His glory—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

SO fill us with Thy Spirit, O Lord, that we, passing from one thing to another, may go from strength to strength; everywhere full of Thy praise, everywhere full of Thy work, finding the joy of the Lord to be our strength, until the time when the work of this world shall close, and the weary hours shall come to an end, and darkness shall come, and our eyes shall rest for awhile; then give us an abundant entrance into the life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*



O GOD, since Thou art Love, and he that loveth not Thee and his brethren knoweth Thee not, and abideth in death, deliver us from injustice, envy, hatred, and malice, give us grace to pardon all who have offended us, and to bear with one another, even as Thou, Lord, dost bear with us, in Thy patience and great loving-kindness—Amen.

—*Eugène Bersier.*

70 Prayers We Love to Pray

ABIDE with me ; fast falls the eventide ;
The darkness deepens ; Lord, with
me abide ;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, Oh, abide with me.

* * * *

I need Thy presence every passing hour ;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
power ?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can
be ?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide
with me.

* * * *

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing
eyes ;
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies ;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee ;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

—*Henry F. Lyte.*

O MOST merciful God and Father, we commend ourselves and all that we have to Thine Almighty hands, and pray Thee to preserve us by Thy good Spirit from all sin, misfortune, and grief of heart. Give us the Spirit of grace and prayer, that we may have a consoling trust in Thy love, and that our sighs and petitions may be acceptable in Thy sight. Give us the Spirit of faith to kindle a bright flame of true and blessed faith in our hearts, that we may have a living knowledge of salvation, and our whole life may be a thank-offering for the mercies we have received. Give us the Spirit of love, that we may experience the sweetness of Thy love toward us, and also love Thee in return; and render our obedience not from constraint like slaves, but with the willing and joyful hearts of children—Amen.

—*Gottfried Arnold.*

O MOST loving Jesus, Pattern of Charity, Who makest all the commandments of the law to consist in love towards God and towards man: grant us so to love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, and all our soul, and our neighbor for Thy sake, that the grace of charity and brotherly love may dwell in us, and all envy, harshness, and ill-will may die in us; fill our hearts with feelings of love, kindness, and compassion; so that, by constantly rejoicing in the happiness and good success of others, by sympathizing with them in their sorrows, and putting away all harsh judgments and envious thoughts, we may follow Thee, Who art Thyself the true and perfect Love; and Who livest, etc.

FOR one thing only, Lord, dear Lord,
I plead,
Lead me aright—
Though strength should falter, and though
heart should bleed—
Through Peace to Light.

I do not ask, O Lord, that Thou shouldst
shed
Full radiance here;
Give but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear.

I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see;
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand
And follow Thee.

Joy is like restless day; but peace divine
Like quiet night:
Lead me, O Lord,—till perfect Day shall
shine,
Through Peace to Light.

—*Adelaide A. Procter.*

74 Prayers We Love to Pray

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God,
Who hatest nothing that Thou hast
made, and dost forgive the sins of
all those who are penitent; create and
make in us new and contrite hearts, that
we, worthily lamenting our sins and ac-
knowledging our wretchedness, may obtain
of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect re-
mission and forgiveness; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord—Amen.

—*Book of Common Prayer.*



CLEANSE me, O God, by the bright
fountain of Thy mercy, and water me with
the dew of Thine abundant grace, that,
being purified from my sins, I may grow
up in good works, truly serving Thee in
holiness and righteousness all the days of
my life—Amen.

O LORD, my God, Fountain of all true and holy love; who hast made me, and preserved me, that I might love Thee; give to Thy servant such a love, that whatsoever in Thy service may happen contrary to flesh and blood, I may not feel it; that humility may be my sanctuary, and Thy service the joy of my soul, and death itself the entrance of an eternal life, when I may live with Thee, my Strength and my Refuge, my God and everlasting Hope—Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*



BE Thou Thyself, O Lord, the Sanctifier and the Shepherd of Thy people, that we who are strengthened by Thy help may, in our daily life, walk with Thee, and in all quietness of spirit serve Thee, through Jesus Christ our Master—Amen.

—*Roman Breviary.*

76 Prayers We Love to Pray

COME, Jesus, with the coming night,
Refresh and cheer my weary heart,
At evening-time it shall be light,
If 'Thou art near, though day depart.

Welcome this shade that brings release
From hurrying labor's noise and strife;
That calls from restless thought to cease,
And calms the throbbing pulse of life.

From tedious toil, from anxious care,
Dear Lord, I turn again to Thee;
Thy presence and Thy smile to share,
Makes every burden light to me.

Till night's dark watches all are gone,
O faithful Shepherd, guard my sleep;
And, when yon mountains greet the dawn,
Give strength my heavenward way to
keep.

—Ray Palmer.

LATE have I loved Thee, O Thou
Eternal Truth and Goodness: late
have I sought Thee, my Father!
But Thou didst seek me, and when Thou
shinedst forth upon me, then I knew Thee
and learnt to love Thee. I thank Thee, O
my Light, that Thou didst thus shine upon
me; that Thou didst teach my soul what
Thou wouldst be to me, and didst incline
Thy face in pity unto me. Thou, Lord,
hast become my Hope, my Comfort, my
Strength, my All! In Thee doth my soul
rejoice. The darkness vanished from be-
fore mine eyes, and I beheld Thee, the
Sun of Righteousness. When I loved
darkness, I knew Thee not, but wandered
on from night to night. But Thou didst
lead me out of that blindness; Thou didst
take me by the hand and call me to Thee,
and now I can thank Thee, and Thy
mighty voice which hath penetrated to my
inmost heart—Amen.

—*St. Augustine,*

78 Prayers We Love to Pray

O SEARCHER of hearts, Thou knowest us better than we know ourselves, and seest the sins which our sinfulness hides from us. Yet even our own conscience beareth witness against us, that we often slumber on our appointed watch; that we walk not always lovingly with each other, and humbly with Thee; and we withhold that entire sacrifice of ourselves to Thy perfect will, without which we are not crucified with Christ, or sharers in His redemption. Oh, look upon our contrition, and lift up our weakness, and let the dayspring yet arise within our hearts, and bring us healing, strength, and joy. Day by day may we grow in faith, in self-denial, in charity, in heavenly-mindedness. And then, mingle us at last with the mighty host of Thy redeemed for evermore—Amen.

—*James Martineau*,

O GOD, our Father, help us to a deeper trust in the life everlasting. May we feel that this love which is now, ever shall be; this robe of the flesh is Thy gift to Thy child, and, when it is worn out, Thou wilt clothe him again; this work of life is the work Thou hast given us to do, and, when it is done, Thou wilt give us more; this love, that makes all our life so glad, flows from Thee, for Thou art Love, and we shall love forever. Help us to feel how, day by day, we see some dim shadow of the eternal day that will break upon us at the last. May the Gospel of Thy Son, the whisper of Thy Spirit, unite to make our faith in the life to come, strong and clear; then shall we be glad when Thou shalt call us, and enter into Thy glory in Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Robert Collyer.*

80 Prayers We Love to Pray

SUN of my soul! Thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
O, may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
Forever on my Saviour's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

Come near and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take,
Till in the ocean of Thy love,
We lose ourselves in heaven above.

—*John Keble.*

O BLESSED Spirit of Truth, Thou Who searchest the heart and triest the inmost thoughts, bring, I pray Thee, my sins to my remembrance, and grant me light to see and find them out. Strengthen me also with courage to confess them truly, hiding nothing, excusing nothing, keeping back nothing in my heart; that I may, of Thy mercy, obtain pardon and entire absolution; and, thus healed, may arise and sin no more, through the merits and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord and only Saviour—Amen.



MAKE us, O Lord, to flourish like pure lilies in the courts of Thine house, and to show forth to the faithful the fragrance of good words, and the example of a Godly life, through Thy mercy and grace—Amen.

—*Mozarabic Sacramentary.*

O LORD of heaven and earth, we are truly sorry for all our misdoings; we utterly renounce whatsoever is contrary to Thy will, and here devote ourselves entirely to the obedience thereof. Accept, O most merciful Father, of this renewed dedication which we make of ourselves, our bodies, souls, and spirits unto Thee. And grant that we may be able every day to offer up ourselves more sincerely, and more cheerfully unto Thee; with more pure affection, and hearty devotion, and ready disposition to Thy service. Preserve in our minds a grateful sense of Thy mighty love, that we may follow the doctrine and example of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may be like Him, pure and undefiled, meek and gentle, peaceable and patient, contented and thankful. Fulfil unto us all the gracious promises that He hath made unto us. Let it be unto Thy servants according to His word—Amen.

—*Simon Patrick.*

O GOD, the Father, Origin of Divinity, Good beyond all that is good, Fair beyond all that is fair, in Whom is calmness, peace, and concord; do Thou make up the dissensions which divide us from each other, and bring us back into an unity of love, which may bear some likeness to Thy sublime Nature. And as Thou art above all things, make us one by the unanimity of a good mind, that through the embrace of charity and the bonds of affection we may be spiritually one, as well in ourselves as in each other, through that peace of Thine which maketh all things peaceful, and through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of Thine Only-begotten Son—Amen.

—*Jacobite Liturgy of S. Dionysius.*

GRANT us peace, and establish Thy truth in us; as Thou fillest all things living with plenteousness. Remember every faithful soul in trial; and comfort, if it be possible, every one in sorrow and distress.

O Helper of the helpless, bring the wanderer home, and give health to the sick, and deliverance to the captive.

Sustain the aged, comfort the weak-hearted, set free those whose souls are bound in misery and iron; remember all those that are in affliction, necessity, and emergency everywhere.

Let us dwell with Thee in peace, as children of light; and in Thy light, Lord, let us see the light.

Direct, O Lord, in peace, the close of our life; trustfully, fearlessly, and, if it be Thy will, painlessly. Gather us when Thou wilt, into the abodes of Thy chosen; without shame, or stain, or sin—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

O MOST loving Lord, I offer my whole self unto Thee. Take, I pray Thee, into the hands of Thine unspeakable pity, both my soul and body, my senses, words, and actions; vouchsafe in all things so to direct and govern me, that I may ever flee every occasion of sin, and may so constantly cleave to Thee and to Thy commandments, that neither life nor death, nor anything which may befall me, may separate me from Thee—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*



LORD, make us to resemble even here the heavenly kingdom, through mutual love, where all hatred is quite banished, and all is full of love, and, consequently, full of joy and gladness—Amen.

—*Ludovicus Dives.*

O LORD, Thy hands have formed us, and Thou hast sent us into this world, that we may walk in the way that leads to heaven and Thyself, and may find a lasting rest in Thee, Who art the Source and Centre of our souls. Look in pity on us poor pilgrims in the narrow way; let us not go astray, but reach at last our true home where our Father dwells. Guide and govern us from day to day, and bestow on us food and strength for body and soul, that we may journey on in peace. Forgive us for having hitherto so often wavered or looked back, and let us henceforward march straight on in the way of Thy laws, and may our last step be a safe and peaceful passage to the arms of Thy love, and the blessed fellowship of the saints in light. Hear us, O Lord, and glorify Thy name in us, that we may glorify Thee for ever and ever—Amen.

—Gerhard Tersteegen.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father: for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

MY adorable God, I humbly beseech Thee to accept the sacrifice I here, in all humility, desire to make Thee, of the remainder of my life; to be entirely employed, with the utmost vigor, both of my soul and body, in Thy service and adoration. Pardon all the sins and offences of my life past, and be pleased to bestow upon me a steadfast faith, an ardent love, an humble and perfect obedience, and a will capable of no other inclination than what it shall continually receive from the absolute guidance of Thy divine will; to which I beg it may be ever perfectly subservient, with all readiness and cheerfulness. As all my thoughts and actions are continually before Thee, so I humbly beseech Thee, that they may never be unworthy of Thy divine Presence, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

O MERCIFUL Lord God, Who dost vouchsafe to feed us, Thy unworthy creatures, with that Bread which cometh down from Heaven, and giveth life unto the soul; so strengthen and sustain me, I beseech Thee, by Thy most gracious gifts, that I may resist all the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and, walking in the way of Thy commandments, may glorify Thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.



PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life—Amen.

O GOD, my God, I am all weakness, but Thou art my Strength; I am ever anew bowed down by any trial, but Thou canst and wilt to lift me up. Let me not fail, O God, my Strength; let me not be discouraged, O God, my Hope. Draw me each day, if it be but a little nearer unto Thee; make me, each day, if it be but a little less unlike Thee; let me do or bear each day something for love of Thee, whereby I may be fitter for Thee. Let no day pass without my having done something pleasing unto Thee. Thus alone would I live, that I may live more unto Thee; thus would I die, longing to love Thee more—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O LORD, Who hast breathed into me the breath of life, and endued me with an immortal spirit, which looks up unto Thee, and remembers it is made after Thine own image, behold with grace and favor the ardent desires which are in my heart, to recover a perfect likeness of Thee. Endue me with more contentedness in what is present, and less solicitude about what is future; with a patient mind to submit to any loss of what I have, or to any disappointment of what I expect. Fill me, O Lord, with the knowledge of Thy will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Fill me with goodness, and the fruits of righteousness. And fill me with all joy and peace in believing that Thou wilt never leave me nor forsake me, but make me perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle me, and be my God for ever and ever; my Guide unto death—Amen.

—*Simon Patrick.*

O LORD, in Whose hands are life and death, by Whose power I am sustained, and by Whose mercy I am spared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me that I have until now so much neglected the duty which Thou hast assigned to me, and suffered the days and hours of which I must give account to pass away without any endeavor to accomplish Thy will. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is Thy gift, and ought to be used according to Thy command. Grant me, therefore, so to repent of my negligence, that I may obtain mercy from Thee, and pass the time which Thou shalt yet allow me in diligent performance of Thy commands, through Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Samuel Johnson.*

O MY Lord, in Thine arms I am safe ; keep me and I have nothing to fear ; give me up, and I have nothing to hope for. I know nothing about the future, but I rely upon Thee. I pray Thee to give me what is good for me ; I pray Thee to take from me whatever may imperil my salvation. I leave it all to Thee, because Thou knowest and I do not. If Thou bringest pain or sorrow on me, give me grace to bear it well, keep me from fretfulness and selfishness. If Thou givest me health and strength and success in this world, keep me ever on my guard lest these great gifts carry me away from Thee. Give me to know Thee, to believe on Thee, to love Thee, to serve Thee, to live to and for Thee. Give me to die just at that time and in that way which is most for Thy glory—Amen.

—*John Henry Newman.*

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we Thy children come now to Thy feet with our supplications. We cannot live without Thy blessing. Life is too hard for us and duty is too large. We get discouraged, and our feeble hands hang down. We come to Thee with our weakness, asking Thee for strength. Help us always to be of good cheer. Let us not be disheartened by difficulties. Let us never doubt Thy love or any of Thy promises. Give us grace to be encouragers of others, never discouragers. Let us not go about with sadness or fear among men, but may we be a benediction to every one we meet, always making life easier, never harder, for those who come within our influence. Help us to be as Christ to others, that they may see something of His love in our lives and learn to love Him in us. We beseech Thee to hear us, to receive our prayer, and to forgive our sins, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—J. R. Miller.

FATHER, with thankful and humble hearts we appear before Thee. We would thank Thee for all the benefits that we have received from Thy goodness: It is to Thy blessing we owe what success we have found. Every opportunity for doing good; every impulse in the right way; each victory we have gained over ourselves; every thought of Thy presence, O Father; every silent but loving glance on the example of our Pattern, Thy Son our Lord—all are alike Thy gifts to us. Give us strength and wisdom to walk faithfully and joyfully in the way of willing obedience to Thy laws, and cheerful trust in Thy love. The best thanksgiving we can offer to Thee is to live according to Thy holy will; grant us every day to offer it more perfectly, and to grow in the knowledge of Thy will and the love thereof, for evermore—Amen.

—*Michael Sailer.*

O LORD, grant to us so to love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, and all our soul, and our neighbor for Thy sake; that the grace of charity and brotherly love may dwell in us, and all envy, harshness, and ill-will may die in us; and fill our hearts with feelings of love, kindness, and compassion, so that, by constantly rejoicing in the happiness and good success of others, by sympathizing with them in their sorrows, and putting away all harsh judgments and envious thoughts, we may follow Thee, Who art Thyself the true and perfect Love—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*

O FATHER, calm the turbulence of our passions; quiet the throbbings of our hopes; repress the waywardness of our wills; direct the motions of our affections; and sanctify the varieties of our lot. Be Thou all in all to us; and may all things earthly, while we bend them to our growth in grace, dwell lightly in our hearts, so that we may readily, or even joyfully, give up whatever Thou dost ask for. May we seek first Thy kingdom and righteousness; resting assured that then all things needful shall be added unto us. Father, pardon our past ingratitude and disobedience; and purify us, whether by Thy gentler or Thy sterner dealings, till we have done Thy will on earth, and Thou removest us to Thine own presence with the redeemed in heaven—Amen.

—*Mary Carpenter.*

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O LORD, my God, for life and reason, nurture, preservation, guidance, education; for Thy gifts of grace and nature, for Thy calling, recalling, manifold recalling me again and again, for Thy forbearance, long-suffering, and long long-suffering toward me, even until now; for all from whom I have received any good or help; for the use of Thy present good things; for Thy promise, and my hope, of good things to come—

For all these things, and for all other, which I know, which I know not, manifest or secret, remembered or forgotten by me, I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I give Thee thanks; and I will praise, and bless, and give Thee thanks all the days of my life.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits to me? Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor, and power—Amen.

—*Lancelot Andrews.*

GLORY be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father—Amen.

O LORD, God, Holy Father, be Thou blessed both now and for evermore, because as Thou wilt, so is it done, and what Thou doest is good. My soul is sorrowful, sometimes, even unto tears; sometimes also my spirit is disquieted by reason of impending sufferings. I long after the joy of Thy peace, the peace of Thy children I earnestly crave. If Thou give peace, if Thou pour into me holy joy, the soul of Thy servant shall be full of melody, and shall become devout in Thy praise. Make me a dutiful and humble disciple (as Thou art wont to be kind), that I may be ever ready to go, if Thou dost but beckon to me. Thou knowest what is expedient for my spiritual progress, and how greatly tribulation serves to scour off the rust of sins; do with me according to Thy desired good pleasure—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*

GRANT me, I beseech Thee, Almighty and most merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is well-pleasing unto Thee. Order Thou my worldly condition to the glory of Thy name; and, of all that Thou requirest me to do, grant me the knowledge, the desire, and the ability, that I may so fulfil it as I ought, and may my path to Thee, I pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon me also, O Lord, my God, understanding to know Thee, diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee—Amen.

—*St. Thomas Aquinas.*

LORD, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises for those that love Thee with their whole heart; Who art the Life of all, the Help of those who flee unto Thee, the Help of those who cry unto Thee, cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to Thy goodness,—cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee—Amen.

—*Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil.*



O LORD, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day: if I forget Thee do not Thou forget me.

—*Sir Jacob Astley.*

O MOST merciful and gracious God, Thou Fountain of all mercy and blessing, Thou hast opened the hand of Thy mercy to fill me with blessings, and the sweet effects of Thy loving-kindness. Thou feedest us like a Shepherd, Thou lovest us as a Friend, and thinkest on us perpetually, as a careful mother on her helpless babe, and art exceeding merciful to all that fear Thee. As Thou hast spread Thy hand upon me for a covering, so also enlarge my heart with thankfulness; and let Thy gracious favors and loving-kindness endure for ever and ever upon Thy servant; and let Thy grace so strengthen my purposes that I may sin no more, but walk in the paths of Thy commandments; that I, living here to the glory of Thy name, may at last enter into the glory of my Lord, to spend a whole eternity in giving praise to Thy ever-glorious name—Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*

ALMIGHTY God, by Whose word all things work, by Whose guidance all things go, so order our inward life that we may be enabled to understand the things that we see; and by Thy guidance in the spiritual life and in charity, so order what there is disordered in our lives, so bring our minds to the truth, our consciences to the law, our eyes to the light, and our hearts to Thy true love, that, amidst the seeming discords of life, we may hear the music of the heavenly will, and catch oftentimes the charms of the heavenly order. So give us hope that we may pass on through time, into the higher and better education of the eternal life to come, and that at last we may know those things that are hidden, and which now we cannot know, and learn the glorious beauty and the glorious loving of the eternal years—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

MAY my whole being, O God, be one thanksgiving unto Thee; may all within me praise Thee and love Thee; for all which Thou hast forgiven, and for all which Thou hast given; for Thine unknown hidden blessings, and for those which, in my negligence or thoughtlessness, I passed over; for any and every gift of nature or of grace; for my power of loving; for all blessings within and without; and for all which Thou hast yet in store for me; for everything whereby Thou hast drawn me to Thyself, whether joy or sorrow; for all whereby Thou wilt est to make me Thine own forever—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*



O, GIVE me light to see, a heart to close with, and power to do Thy will, O God—Amen.

—*Thomas Wilson.*

106 Prayers We Love to Pray

BY virtue of Thy victory, give us also,
I entreat Thee, victory. Let Thy
pierced heart win us to love Thee,
Thy torn hands incite us to every good
work, Thy wounded feet urge us on er-
rands of mercy, Thy crown of thorns
prick us out of sloth, Thy thirst draw us
to thirst after the Living Water Thou giv-
est; let Thy life be our pattern while we
live and Thy death our triumph over death
when we come to die—Amen.

—C. G. Rossetti.



O GOD, let the sighing of the prisoner
come before Thee, and mercifully grant
unto us that we may be delivered by Thine
almighty power from all bonds and chains
of sin, whether in our bodies or in our
souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord—
Amen.

—*Roman Breviary.*

O LORD, we acknowledge Thy dominion over us; our life, our death, our soul and body, all belong to Thee. O, grant that we may willingly consecrate them all to Thee, and use them in Thy service. Let us walk before Thee in childlike simplicity, steadfast in prayer; looking ever unto Thee, that whatsoever we do or abstain from we may in all things follow the least indications of Thy will. Become Lord of our hearts and spirits; that the whole inner man may be brought under Thy rule, and that Thy life of love and righteousness may pervade all our thoughts and energies and the very ground of our souls; that we may be wholly filled with it. Come, O Lord and King, enter into our hearts, and live and reign there for ever and ever. O faithful Lord, teach us to trust Thee for life and death, and to take Thee for our All in All—Amen.

—*Gerhard Tersteegen.*

108 **Prayers We Love to Pray**

GOD, Which hast made the glorious name of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord most dear to Thy faithful people: grant, we beseech Thee, that all we, who honor this name on earth, may receive in this life the sweetness of Thy holy consolations, and in the world to come, the joy of exultation, and of eternal blessedness in heaven: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth, etc.



O THOU, our Lord and our God, our merciful Father in heaven, we entreat Thee with childlike hearts, give us in this world whatever is really good and happy for us in soul and body, according to Thy holy will and pleasure. May we live as Christians, endure with patience, and at last die in peace and hope, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Johann Quirsfeld.*

STRENGTHEN me, O God, by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit; grant me to be strengthened with might in the inner man, and to empty my heart of all useless care and anguish. O Lord, grant me heavenly wisdom, that I may learn above all things to seek and to find Thee, above all things to relish and to love Thee, and to think of all other things as being, what indeed they are, at the disposal of Thy wisdom—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*



GRANT, O Lord, that my petitions may always be for those things that may fit me to please Thee, and not for such as may be the fittest to please myself; and, for an accumulation of blessings, so influence my soul with Thy divine Spirit, that Thy will may ever be my pleasure—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

The Busy Day

O GOD, Who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that, whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go in the road which Thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but daily seeking our way by Thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to Thee, the Fountain of Joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life which Thou hast opened for us in Christ Jesus—Amen.

—*Martineau's Common Prayer for Christian Worship.*

O GOD, Who hast ordained that whatever is to be desired should be sought by labor, and Who, by Thy blessing, bringest honest labor to good effect, look with mercy upon my studies and endeavors. Grant me, O Lord, to design only what is lawful and right; and afford me calmness of mind, and steadiness of purpose, that I may so do Thy will in this short life as to obtain happiness in the world to come, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Samuel Johnson.*



I WILL whatsoever Thou willest; I will because Thou willest; I will in that manner Thou willest; I will as long as Thou willest—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*



112 Prayers We Love to Pray

O LORD, give Thy blessing, we pray Thee, to our daily work, that we may do it in faith and heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men. All our powers of body and mind are Thine, and we would fain devote them to Thy service. Sanctify them, and the work in which they are engaged; let us not be slothful, but fervent in spirit, and do Thou, O Lord, so bless our efforts that they may bring forth in us the fruits of true wisdom. Teach us to seek after truth and enable us to gain it; but grant that we may ever speak the truth in love; that, while we know earthly things, we may know Thee, and be known by Thee, through and in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Give us this day Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be Thine in body and spirit in all our work and all our refreshments, through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord—Amen.

—*Thomas Arnold.*

O DEAREST Lord, be not weary of my slothfulness in serving Thee, but help me by the indwelling of Thy Spirit, to struggle on through every hindrance to the perfect day, overcoming as Thou mayest see best every temptation which keeps me apart from Thee, and, in the end, giving me that blessed freedom which is the portion of Thy children, freedom from self and sin, and the enjoyment of that communion with Thee which is the end of all sanctification. Pour down, Lord, the fulness of Thy grace on all I love, shed abroad Thy love into the hearts of those dearest to me, and draw them near unto Thyself, that the full beauty and truth that is in Thee may be revealed to those who know Thee but in part. So shall Thy name be glorified and Thy love perfected in them, and Thy poor servant shall praise Thy mercy forever—Amen.

—*Maria Hare.*

O ETERNAL God, Who hast created me to do the work of God after the manner of men, and to serve Thee in this generation, and according to my capacities; give me Thy grace that I may be a prudent spender of my time, so as I may best prevent or resist all temptation, and be profitable to the Christian commonwealth; and, by discharging all my duty, may glorify Thy name. Take from me all slothfulness, and give me a diligent and an active spirit, and wisdom to choose my employment; that I may do works proportionable to my person, and to the dignity of a Christian, and may fill up all the spaces of my time with actions of religion and charity; improving my talent intrusted to me by Thee, my Lord, that I may enter into the joy of the Lord, to partake of Thy eternal felicities, even for Thy mercy's sake—Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*

O LORD, who art our Guide even unto death, grant us, I pray Thee, grace to follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. In little daily duties to which Thou callest us, bow down our wills to simple obedience, patience under pain or provocation, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility, kindness; in great acts of duty or perfection, if Thou shouldst call us to them, uplift us to self-sacrifice, heroic courage, laying down of life for Thy truth's sake, or for a brother—Amen.

—*C. G. Rossetti.*

116 **Prayers We Love to Pray**

O LORD, give us grace, I pray Thee,
so to realize Thine Almighty suc-
cor pledged to us, Thy protecting
Presence surrounding us, Thine all-seeing
eye fixed upon us, that we may cease to
tremble at man's anger, or shrink from
man's ridicule, but may with a good cour-
age perform the work Thou givest us to
do, and after we have suffered may enter
into rest—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*



Jesus, Lord, the Way of Woe
Thou dost tread for love of me,
Every day I live below,
Draw me, Saviour, after Thee.

NOT only lay Thy commands on us,
O Lord, but be pleased to enable
us for the performance of every
duty required of us. And so engage our
hearts to Thyself, that we may make it
our meat and drink to do Thy will, and,
with enlarged hearts, run the way of Thy
commands. Be merciful to us, and bless
us, and keep us this day in all our ways.
Let Thy love abound in our hearts and
sweetly and powerfully constrain us to all
faithful and cheerful obedience—Amen.

—*Benjamin Jenks.*



O LORD, we beseech Thee mercifully
to receive the prayers of Thy people who
call upon Thee, and grant that they may
both perceive and know what things they
ought to do, and also may have grace and
power faithfully to fulfil the same; through
Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gregorian, A. D. 590.*

O GOD, the Father of the forsaken, the Help of the weak, the Supplier of the needy, Who hast diffused and proportioned Thy gifts to body and soul, in such sort that all may acknowledge and perform the joyous duty of mutual service; Who teachest us that love towards the race of man is the bond of perfectness, and the imitation of Thy blessed self; open our eyes and touch our hearts, that we may see and do, both for this world and for that which is to come, the things which belong unto our peace. Strengthen me in the work I have undertaken; give me counsel and wisdom, perseverance, faith and zeal, and in Thine own good time, and according to Thy pleasure, prosper the issue. Pour into me a spirit of humility; let nothing be done but in devout obedience to Thy will, thankfulness for Thine unspeakable mercies, and love to Thine adorable Son, Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Earl of Shaftesbury.*

O GRACIOUS Father, keep me through Thy Holy Spirit; keep my heart soft and tender now in health and amidst the bustle of the world; keep the thought of Thyself present to me as my Father in Jesus Christ; and keep alive in me a spirit of love and meekness to all men, that I may be at once gentle and active and firm. O strengthen me to bear pain, or sickness, or danger, or whatever Thou shalt be pleased to lay upon me, as Christ's soldier and servant; and let my faith overcome the world daily. Perfect and bless the work of Thy Spirit in the hearts of all Thy people, and may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. I pray for this, and for all that Thou seest me to need, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Thomas Arnold.*

O LORD God Almighty, Who givest power to the faint, and increasest strength to them that have no might! Without Thee I can do nothing, but by Thy gracious assistance I am enabled for the performance of every duty laid upon me. Lord of power and love, I come, trusting in Thine Almighty strength, and Thine infinite goodness, to beg from Thee what is wanting in myself, even that grace which shall help me such to be, and such to do, as Thou wouldest have me. O my God! let Thy grace be sufficient for me, and ever present with me, that I may do all things as I ought. I will trust in Thee, in Whom is everlasting strength. Be Thou my Helper, to carry me on beyond my own strength, and to make all that I think, and speak, and do, acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Benjamin Jenks.*

O GOD, Who hast taught us to do unto others as we would they should do unto us, give me grace to cleanse my heart and hands from all fraud and wrong, that I may hurt nobody by word or deed, but be true and just in all my dealings; that so, keeping innocency and taking heed unto the thing that is right, I may have peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Pocket Manual of Prayers.*



WE beseech Thee, O Lord, let the power of the Holy Spirit be present with us, that it may both mercifully cleanse our hearts and protect us from all adversities; through our Lord Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Leonine Sacramentary, A. D. 440.*

122 **Prayers We Love to Pray**

GIVE us grace, O Lord, to work
while it is day: fulfilling diligently
and patiently whatever duty Thou
appointest us, doing small things in the
day of small things, and great labors if
Thou summon us to any: rising and work-
ing, sitting still and suffering, according
to Thy word. Go with me and I will go,
but if Thou go not with me, send me not;
go before me if Thou put me forth; let
me hear Thy voice when I follow—Amen.

—*Christina G. Rossetti.*



LORD, help me tell Thy story sweet,
To troubled ones around me;
Help me with smiling face to meet
The duties that surround me.
Grant unto me the strength to do,
Each day the task before me;
And then at last, lead Thou me through
The mists that hover o'er me.

—*George D. Gelwicks.*

The Quiet Hour

NOTHING, O Lord, is liker to Thy holy nature than the mind that is settled in quietness. Thou hast called us into that quietness and peace of Thine, from out of the turmoils of this world, as it were, from out of storms into a haven; which is such a peace as the world cannot give, and as passeth all capacity of man. Grant now, O most merciful Father, that, through Thine exceeding goodness, our minds may yield themselves obedient unto Thee without striving; and that they may quietly rise into that sovereign rest of Thine above. Grant that nothing may disturb or disquiet them here beneath; but that all things may be quiet and calm through that peace of Thine—Amen.

—*A Book of Christian Prayers.*

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, of Thy good Spirit, that quiet heart, and that patient lowliness to which Thy comforting Spirit comes; that we, being humble toward Thee, and loving toward one another, may have our hearts prepared for that peace of Thine which passeth understanding; which, if we have, the storms of life can hurt us but little, and the cares of life vex us not at all; in presence of which death shall lose its sting, and the grave its terror; and we, in calm joy, walk all the days of our appointed time, until our great change shall come—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*



IT WAS for us that Thou didst suffer, O blessed Jesus; it was for our sins Thou wast condemned to die. O grant that we may detest them from the bottom of our hearts, and by this repentance obtain Thy mercy and pardon—Amen.

THOU ever blessed Fountain of life,
I bless Thee that Thou hast infused
into me Thine own vital breath, so
that I am become a living soul. It is my
earnest desire that I may not only live,
but grow; grow in grace, and in the knowl-
edge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
May I grow in patience and fortitude of
soul, in humility and zeal, in spirituality
and a heavenly disposition of mind. In a
word, as Thou knowest I hunger and thirst
after righteousness, make me whatever
Thou wouldest delight to see me. Draw
on my soul, by the gentle influences of
Thy gracious Spirit, every trace and every
feature which Thine eye, O heavenly
Father, may survey with pleasure, and
which Thou mayest acknowledge as Thine
own image. I ask and hope it through
Him of Whose fulness we have all re-
ceived—Amen.

—*Philip Doddridge.*

O GOD, perfect us in love, that we may conquer all selfishness and hatred of others; fill our hearts with Thy joy, and shed abroad in them Thy peace which passeth understanding; that so those murmurings and disputings to which we are too prone may be overcome. Make us long-suffering and gentle, and thus subdue our hastiness and angry tempers, and grant that we may bring forth the blessed fruits of the Spirit, to Thy praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—Henry Alford.



GIVE me, Lord, I pray Thee, the grace and virtue of constancy, and unwearied endurance, that so I may receive with thanksgiving whatever Thy hand may send of calamity or distress in this life, and may bear it patiently—Amen.

—Paradise for the Christian Soul.

MY faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine!

Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day;
Wipe sorrow's tears away;
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

—Ray Palmer.

O GOD, Who puttest into our hearts such deep desire, that we cannot be at peace until we enjoy the feeling of Thy love; mercifully grant that the unspeakable sighing of our souls' need may not go unsatisfied because of any unrighteousness of heart, which must divide us from the All-holy One; but strengthen us to do right by whomsoever we have wronged in thought, word, or deed; to renounce all plans of wrong-doing for the future; to purify our thoughts, and govern our appetites, so that we may have no bar between us and Thy glory, but enjoy Thy peace which passeth understanding—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

I OFFER to Thee prayers for the pardon of those especially, who have in any way injured, grieved, or reproached me; or have caused me any harm or annoyance. And I offer also for all those whom I have in any way grieved, vexed, oppressed, and scandalized, by word or deed, knowingly or unknowingly; that Thou mayest equally forgive us all our sins, and all our offences against each other. Take away, O Lord, from our hearts all suspiciousness, indignation, anger, and contention, and whatever is calculated to wound charity, and to lessen brotherly love. Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy on those who seek Thy mercy; give grace to the needy; make us so to live that we may be found worthy to enjoy the fruition of Thy grace, and that we may attain to eternal life—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*

O GOD, the Enlightener of men, Who of all graces givest the most abundant blessing upon heavenly love, we beseech Thee to cleanse us from selfishness, and grant us for Thy love so to love our brethren that we may be Thy children upon earth, and thereby, walking in Thy truth, attain to Thy unspeakable joy, Who art the Giver of life to all who truly love Thee. Grant this prayer, O Lord—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

O GOD, Fountain of love, pour Thy love into our souls, that we may love those whom Thou lovest, with the love Thou givest us, and think and speak of them tenderly, meekly, lovingly; and so loving our brethren and sisters for Thy sake, may grow in Thy love, and dwelling in love may dwell in Thee; for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*



ALMIGHTY God, Who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Book of Common Prayer.*

O ALMIGHTY God, give to Thy servant a meek and gentle spirit, that I may be slow to anger, and easy to mercy and forgiveness. Give me a wise and constant heart, that I may never be moved to an intemperate anger for any injury that is done or offered. Lord, let me ever be courteous, and easy to be entreated; let me never fall into a peevish or contentious spirit, but follow peace with all men; offering forgiveness, inviting them by courtesies, ready to confess my own errors, apt to make amends, and desirous to be reconciled. Let no sickness or cross accident, no employment or weariness, make me angry or ungentle and discontented, or unthankful, or uneasy to them that minister to me; but in all things make me like unto the holy Jesus—Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*

O HOLY Spirit, Love of God, infuse Thy grace, and descend plentifully into my heart; enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling, and scatter there Thy cheerful beams; dwell in that soul that longs to be Thy temple; water that barren soil, over-run with weeds and briars, and lost for want of cultivating, and make it fruitful with Thy dew from heaven. O come, Thou refreshment of them that languish and faint. Come, Thou Star and Guide of them that sail in the tempestuous sea of the world; Thou only Haven of the tossed and shipwrecked. Come, Thou Glory and Crown of the living, and only Safeguard of the dying. Come, Holy Spirit, in much mercy, and make me fit to receive Thee—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*

O MY God, Thou and Thou alone art all-wise and all-knowing! I believe that Thou knowest just what is best for me. I believe that Thou lovest me better than I love myself, that Thou art all-wise in Thy Providence and all-powerful in Thy protection. I thank Thee, with all my heart, that Thou hast taken me out of my own keeping, and hast bidden me to put myself in Thy hands. I can ask nothing better than this, to be Thy care, not my own. O my Lord, through Thy grace, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest, and will not lead the way. I will wait on Thee for Thy guidance, and, on obtaining it, I will act in simplicity and without fear. And I promise that I will not be impatient, if at any time I am kept by Thee in darkness and perplexity; nor will I complain or fret if I come into any misfortune or anxiety—Amen.

—*John Henry Newman.*

LORD, I thank Thee that Thy love constraineth me. I thank Thee that, in the great labyrinth of life, Thou waitest not for my consent to lead me. I thank Thee that Thou ledest me by a way which I know not, by a way which is above the level of my poor understanding. I thank Thee that Thou art not repelled by my bitterness, that Thou art not turned aside by the heat of my spirit. There is no force in this universe so glorious as the force of Thy love; it compels me to come in. O divine servitude, O slavery that makes me free, O love that imprisons me only to set my feet in a larger room, enclose me more and more within Thy folds. Protect me from the impetuous desires of my nature—desires as short-lived as they are impetuous. Ask me not where I would like to go; tell me where to go; lead me in Thine own way; hold me in Thine own light—Amen.

—*George Matheson.*

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ALMIGHTY God, Who alone gavest us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the breathing of holy desires, we beseech Thee for Thy compassion's sake to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavors, that we may neither begin any action without a pure intention, nor continue it without Thy blessing; and grant that, having the eyes of our understanding purged to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired with Thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by Thy strength, and in the end be accepted of Thee, as Thy faithful servants, having done all things to Thy glory, and thereby to our endless peace. Grant this prayer, O Lord—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*



MOST loving Lord, give me a child-like love of Thee, which may cast out all fear—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O GOD, my God, give me a heart to thank Thee; lift up my heart above myself, to Thee and Thine eternal throne; let it not linger here among the toils and turmoils of this lower world; let it not be oppressed by any earth-born clouds of care or anxiety or fear or suspicion; but bind it wholly to Thee and to Thy love; give me eyes to see Thy love in all things, and Thy grace in all around me; make me to thank Thee for Thy love and Thy grace to all and in all; give me wings of love, that I may soar up to Thee, and cling to Thee, and adore Thee, and praise Thee more and more, until I be fitted to enter into the joys of Thine everlasting love, everlastingly to love Thee and Thy grace, whereby Thou didst make me such as Thou couldst love, such as could love Thee, O God, my God—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O LORD, give us more charity, more self-denial, more likeness to Thee.

Teach us to sacrifice our comforts to others, and our likings for the sake of doing good. Make us kindly in thought, gentle in word, generous in deed. Teach us that it is better to give than to receive; better to forget ourselves than to put ourselves forward; better to minister than to be ministered unto. And unto Thee, the God of love, be glory and praise forever—Amen.

—*Henry Alford.*

O LORD, our God, teach us, we beseech Thee, to ask Thee aright for the right blessings. Steer Thou the vessel of our life toward Thyself, Thou tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course wherein we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let Thy Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good,—to keep Thy laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in Thy glorious and gladdening Presence. For Thine is the glory and praise from all Thy saints for ever and ever—Amen.

—*St. Basil.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, Thine unworthy servants, do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Thy service and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honor and glory, world without end—Amen.

—*Book of Common Prayer.*

O THOU loving and tender Father in heaven, I confess before Thee, in deep sorrow, how hard and unsympathizing is my heart; how often I have sinned against my neighbor by want of compassion and tenderness; how often I have felt no true pity for his trials and sorrows, and have neglected to comfort, help, and visit him. O Father, forgive this heavy sin, and lay it not to my charge. Give me grace ever to alleviate the crosses and difficulties of those around me, and never to add to them; teach me to be a consoler in sorrow, to take thought for the stranger, the widow, and the orphan; let my charity show itself not in words only, but in deed and truth. Teach me to judge, as Thou dost, with forbearance, with much pity and indulgence; and help me to avoid all unloving judgment of others—Amen.

—*Johann Arndt.*

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MOST gracious God and Father, in Whom dwelleth all fullness of light and wisdom, enlighten our minds, we beseech Thee, by the Holy Spirit, in the true understanding of Thy Word. Give us grace to receive it with all reverence and humility. May it teach us to put our whole trust in Thee only, and so to serve and honor Thee that in all our life we may glorify Thy Holy Name and be profitable to our fellow-men. And inasmuch as it hath pleased Thee to remember us with Thy servants and children, grant that we may render unto Thee the love and obedience which we owe Thee, as children to their father and servants to their lord. We ask all for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Saviour—Amen.

—*John Calvin,*

GRANT me, even me, my dearest Lord, to know Thee, and love Thee, and rejoice in Thee. And if I cannot do these perfectly in this life, let me at least advance to higher degrees every day, till I can come to do them in perfection. Let the knowledge of Thee increase in me here, that it may be full hereafter. Let the love of Thee grow every day more and more here, that it may be perfect hereafter; that my joy may be great in itself, and full in Thee. I know, O God, that Thou art a God of truth. O make good Thy gracious promises to me, that my joy may be full—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*

THOU Eternal, in Whose appointment our life standeth! Thou hast committed our work to us, and we would commit our cares to Thee. May we feel that we are not our own, and that Thou wilt heed our wants, while we are intent upon Thy will. May we never dwell carelessly or say in our hearts, "I am here, and there is none over me"; nor anxiously, as though our path were hid; but with a mind simply fixed upon our trust, and choosing nothing but the dispositions of Thy Providence. More and more fill us with that pity for others' troubles which comes from forgetfulness of our own; and the glad hope of the children of eternity. And unto Thee, the Beginning and the End, Lord of the living, Refuge of the dying, be thanks and praise for ever—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

THE fetters Thou imposest, O Lord,
are wings of freedom. There is no
liberty like the liberty of being bound
to go. When Thou layest upon me the
sense of obligation, that moment Thou set-
test my spirit free. When Thou sayest that
I must, my heart says, "I can." My
strength is proportionate to the strength
of those cords that bind me. I am never
so unrestrained as when I am constrained
by Thy love. Evermore, Thou Divine
Spirit, guide me by this instinct of the
right. Put round about my heart the cord
of Thy captivating love, and draw me
whither in my own light I would not go.
Bind me to Thyself as Thou bindest the
planets to the sun, that it may become the
very law of my nature to be led by Thee.
May I be content to know that goodness
and mercy shall *follow* me without waiting
to see them in advance of me—Amen.

—George Matheson.

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JUST as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to
Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, Whose blood can cleanse each
spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.

* * * *

Just as I am: Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

—Charlotte Elliott.

HEAR our prayer, O Lord, and consider our desires. Give unto us true humility, a meek and quiet spirit, a loving and a friendly, a holy and a useful manner of life; bearing the burdens of our neighbors, denying ourselves, and studying to benefit others, and to please Thee in all things. Grant us to be righteous in performing promises, loving to our relatives, careful of our charges; to be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and readily prepared for every good work—Amen.

—*Jeremy Taylor.*



LORD, I believe, but would believe more firmly; O Lord, I love, but yet would love more warmly. I offer unto Thee my thoughts, that they may be towards Thee; my deeds, that they may be according to Thee; my sufferings, that they may be for Thee—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*

ALMIGHTY God, Who art over all things, Life of all life,—stir in our souls, that we, being moved by Thy Spirit, may see those things which are fairest and truest in life, and clinging thereunto, be enabled to get the victory over that which is mean and base; that so at last, all evil passion and unholy desire, all self-will and contrariness to Thee, may be overcome, and we come at last to that sublime state of willing obedience, when Thy will shall be in us supreme. Of Thy mercy hear us, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

SET my heart on fire with the love of Thee, most loving Father, and then to do Thy will and to obey Thy commandments will not be grievous to me. For to him that loveth, nothing is difficult, nothing is impossible, because love is stronger than death. O may love fill and rule my heart. For then there will spring up and be cherished, between Thee and me a likeness of character and union of will, so that I may choose and refuse what Thou dost. May Thy will be done in me and by me forever—Amen.

O MY God, possess my soul with such an ardent love of Thee, so buoyant above all other affections, that no one may ever come in competition with it; such a love as may not only subdue all other affections, but purify and make them innocent; such a love as may create in my soul a perpetual pleasure in the contemplation of Thee, and a continual thirst after Thee; a love which may transport my soul with Thy divine perfections, and paint there such bright ideas of Thy glorious majesty, that none of the trifling pleasures and temptations of this world may be able to make on it the least impression. And as, my gracious Lord, Thou hast given me much, and forgiven me much, so raise my love to a degree proportionable to Thy bounty and mercy—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

ALMIGHTY Father, we are a' Thy
puir an sinfu' bairns, wha wearied
o' hame and gaed awa' intae the
far country. Forgive us, for we didna
ken what we were leavin' or the sair hert
we gied oor Father. It was weary wark
tae live wi' oor sins, but we wud never
hev come back had it no been for oor
Elder Brither. He cam' a long road tae
find us, and a sore travail He had afore
He set us free. He's been a gude Brither
ta us, and we've been a heavy chairge tae
Him. May He keep a firm hand o' us, and
guide us in the richt road, and bring us
back gin we wander, and tell us a' we need
tae know till the gloamin' come. Gither
us in then, we pray Thee, and a' we luve,
no a bairn missin', and may we sit doon
for ever in oor ain Father's House—Amen.

—*Ian Maclaren.*

WE confess unto Thee, O God, how weak we are in ourselves, how powerless to do the work of life, how prone to selfishness and sin. We beseech Thee to grant us strength, the strength of Thy Spirit, the power of Thy Christ, wherein we can do all things. Enable us thus to repress every selfish propensity, every wilful purpose, every unkind feeling, every thought and word and deed of anger and impatience, and to cherish perfect love, constant kindness, to think pure thoughts, to speak gentle words, to do helpful and generous deeds. Raise our minds to the contemplation of Thy beloved Son, that, seeing His divine beauty, we may be drawn near unto Him, and changed into His image, and empowered to bring every thought into obedience to Christ, into harmony with His Spirit and His immortal life—Amen.

—*Thomas T. Stone.*

MOST great and glorious God, Who hast appointed the rivers to hasten with a rapid motion to the sea, be graciously pleased, I most humbly beseech Thee, to make the stream of my will perpetually to flow a cheerful and impetuous course, bearing down pleasure, interest, afflictions, death, and all other obstacles and impediments whatsoever, before it, till it plunge itself joyfully into the unfathomable ocean of Thy divine will, for the sake of Thy beloved Son, my Saviour, Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

ALMIGHTY God, Giver of all good, who hast given, above all Thy gifts, the crowning mercy that we are called in Christ Jesus to know and love and serve Thee, we would bring Thee thanks and praises for the Divine Light which reveals the heart of grace in Thy leading of souls and peoples. Help us to rise to a fit gratitude for the overrunning blessings which Thou givest ever, even to the darkest lot and life,—the temporal felicities, the Divine comforts, the eternal hopes. That all things are of Thy mercy, by Thy mercy, and in Thy mercy, we thank Thee. Make us to sing Thy song in the light, and in the night to touch Thy hand and be at peace. Grant, we pray, with all other blessings, Thy best gifts, thankful and trustful hearts, that Thou mayest be our Lord and King for evermore—Amen.

—Henry W. Foote.

O LORD, prepare my heart, I beseech Thee, to reverence Thee, to adore Thee, to love Thee; to hate for love of Thee, all my sins, imperfections, shortcomings, whatever in me displeaseth Thee; and to love all which Thou lovest, and whom Thou lovest. Give me, Lord, fervor of love, shame for my unthankfulness, sorrow for my sins, longing for Thy grace, and to be wholly united with Thee. Let my very coldness call for the glow of Thy love; let my emptiness and dryness, like a barren and thirsty land, thirst for Thee, call on Thee to come into my soul, who refreshest those who are weary. Let my heart ache to Thee and for Thee, who stillest the aching of the heart. Let my mute longings praise Thee, crave to Thee, who satisfiest the empty soul, that waits on Thee—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O MY dear Heavenly Father, God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, God of all consolation, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast revealed to me Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, in Whom I have lived and glorified. I pray Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, to take my poor soul under Thy protection. O my dear Heavenly Father, though I may be obliged to quit this body and quit this life, I am sure I shall dwell forever with Thee, and no one shall pluck me out of Thy hands. Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit, for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of Truth—Amen.

—*Martin Luther.*

ALMIGHTY God, and most merciful Father, give us, we beseech Thee, that grace that we may duly examine the inmost of our hearts, and our most secret thoughts, how we stand before Thee; and that we may henceforward never be drawn to do anything that may dishonor Thy name: but may persevere in all good purposes, and in Thy holy service, unto our lives' end; and grant that we may now this present day, seeing it is as good as nothing that we have done hitherto, perfectly begin to walk before Thee, as becometh those that are called to an inheritance of light in Christ—Amen.

—*Hicks' Devotions.*

O SOURCE of Life and Strength! many of Thy mercies do we plainly see, and we believe in a boundless store behind. No morning stars that sing together can have deeper call than we for grateful joy. Thou hast given us a life of high vocation, and Thine own breathing in our hearts interprets for us its sacred opportunities. Thou hast cheered the way with many dear affections and glimpses of solemn beauty and everlasting truth. Not a cloud of sorrow but Thou hast touched with glory: not a dusty atmosphere of care but Thy light shines through! And, lest our spirits should fail before Thine unattainable perfections, Thou hast set us in the train of Thy saints who have learned to take up the cross of sacrifice. Let the time past suffice to have wrought our own will, and now make us consecrate to Thine—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*

THOU divine Spirit, let me find my strength in Thee. I need Thee, that I may be strong everywhere. I long to be independent of all circumstances, alike of the cloud and of the sunshine. I want a power to save me from sinking in despondency, and to rescue me from soaring in pride. I want both a pillar of fire and a pillar of cloud; a refuge from the night of adversity, and a shield from the day of prosperity. I can find them in Thee. Thou hast proved Thy power both over the night and over the day. Come into my heart, and Thy power shall be my power. I shall be victorious over all circumstances, at home in all scenes, restful in all fortunes. I shall have power to tread upon scorpions, and they shall do me no hurt; the world shall be mine when Thy Spirit is in me—Amen.

—George Matheson.

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O LORD, this is all my desire—to walk along the path of life that Thou hast appointed me, even as Jesus my Lord would walk along it, in steadfastness of faith, in meekness of spirit, in lowliness of heart, in gentleness of love. And because outward events have so much power in scattering my thoughts and disturbing the inward peace in which alone the voice of Thy Spirit is heard, do Thou, gracious Lord, calm and settle my soul by that subduing power which alone can bring all thoughts and desires of the heart into captivity to Thyself. All I have is Thine; do Thou with all as seems best to Thy divine will; for I know not what is best. Let not the cares or duties of this life press on me too heavily; but lighten my burden, that I may follow Thy way in quietness, filled with thankfulness for Thy mercy, and rendering acceptable service unto Thee—Amen.

—*Maria Hare.*

O GOD, Who hast in mercy taught us how good it is to follow the holy desires which Thou manifoldly puttest into our hearts, and how bitter is the grief of falling short of whatever beauty our minds behold, strengthen us, we beseech Thee, to walk steadfastly throughout life in the better path which our hearts once chose; and give us wisdom to tread it prudently in Thy fear, as well as cheerfully in Thy love; so that, having been faithful to Thee all the days of our life here, we may be able hopefully to resign ourselves into Thy hands hereafter—Amen.

—Rowland Williams.

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with Thee, may feel our hearts burn within us, until all pure, and just, and holy, and noble things of God and man may be to us lovely, and we may find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in Thine eyes, and nothing worth seeking but that which is lovely and fair therein. Let the divine brightness and peace possess our souls, so that, fearing neither life nor death, we may look to Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean within us, and at last to give the spirit within us the victory, and bring us safe through death into the life everlasting. Hear us of Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

O MERCIFUL God, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity, make me earnestly repent, and heartily to be sorry for all my misdoings; make the remembrance of them so burdensome and painful that I may flee to Thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart; and, O merciful Lord, visit, comfort, and relieve me; excite in me true repentance; give me in this world knowledge of Thy truth and confidence in Thy mercy, and, in the world to come, life everlasting. Strengthen me against sin, and enable me so to perform every duty, that whilst I live I may serve Thee in that state to which Thou hast called me; and, at last, by a holy and happy death, be delivered from the struggles and sorrows of this life, and obtain eternal happiness, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Thy Son, Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Samuel Johnson.*

ALMIGHTY God, Who art the Giver of all wisdom, enlighten my understanding with knowledge of right, and govern my will by Thy laws, that no deceit may mislead me, nor temptation corrupt me; that I may always endeavor to do good, and to hinder evil. Amidst all the hopes and fears of this world, take not Thy Holy Spirit from me; but grant that my thoughts may be fixed on Thee, and that I may finally attain everlasting happiness, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Samuel Johnson.*



GRANT, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, unto us who know that we are weak, and who trust in Thee because we know that Thou art strong, the gladsome help of Thy loving-kindness, both here in time and hereafter in eternity—Amen.

—*Roman Breviary.*

WHAT shall I render unto Him for all His benefits?" I can only give my own self—all I have, and all I am. I desire to surrender myself wholly unto Thee, O my God, to live more simply as one separated unto Thee, not finding my joy and comfort in the earthly blessings Thou so richly bestowest on me, but, while thankful for the gracious gifts, looking only to the Giver as the Source of my happiness and the Object of my life. I cannot shake off the habits of thought and feeling which many years have wrought in me; I can only ask of Thee to have mercy on me, poor and needy as I am, and subdue in me all that is perverse and wayward in my heart, and so fill me with Thy pure and heavenly love, that all my narrowness and selfishness may be done away in the wideness of Thy love—Amen.

—*Maria Hare.*

O GOD, Who art the Fountain of Truth and the Giver of spiritual knowledge, Who leadest us from year to year in unchanging love—we bless Thee that, when by sight we could not gaze upon Thy glory, by faith we can know Thee, and lay hold on that Truth which giveth light to the soul. Especially do we thank Thee for Him in whom the true light shineth on every man that cometh into the world. And we ask from the treasures of Thy grace for a more child-like trust, a more faithful spirit, a more loyal will. May our obedience open to us all spiritual knowledge. May the truth of our own lives lead us into communion with Thy spirit of Truth. May we be transformed into the likeness of Christ, and so renew Thine image on the earth, and hasten the coming of that kingdom of truth and liberty and love—Amen.

—*Henry W. Foote.*

THEE, most merciful God, do I now invoke to descend into my soul, which Thou hast prepared for Thy reception by the desire which Thou hast breathed into it. Ere ever I cried to Thee, Thou, most Merciful, hadst called and sought me, that I might find Thee, and finding love Thee. Even so I sought and found Thee, Lord, and desire to love Thee. Increase my desire, and grant me what I ask. See, I love Thee, but too little; strengthen my love. When my spirit aspires to Thee, and meditates on Thine unspeakable goodness, the burden of the flesh becomes less heavy, the tumult of thought is stilled, the weight of mortality is less oppressive. Then fain would my soul find wings, that she might rise in tireless flight ever upwards to Thy glorious throne, and there be filled with the refreshing solace that belongs to the citizens of heaven—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*

MY Refuge and my Lord, I believe and hope in Thee, and with my whole heart I love Thee. Behold Thou hast set before me death and life, sorrows and joys, hopes and fears; towards what shall I stretch forth my hand? O Lord, I know not, but Thou knowest; do with me what pleaseth Thee. Thine am I with my whole heart. My times are in Thy hand. O Thou, my only Hope, Thy will be done as in heaven so on earth. Be that done, be that done,—not what I will, but what Thou wilt. Henceforth, even for ever, I cast all my care upon Thee, for I know that Thou carest for me, yea, even for me; hide me under the shadow of Thy wings. Let Thy will be done! I will wait in silence for Thy salvation, O my God, and I will love Thee with my whole heart—Amen.

—*The Way of Eternal Life.*

O LORD, of Thy tender love, prepare
Thou Thyself a place for Thyself
in my heart. Empty my heart of
every feeling, thought, emotion, desire,
purpose, anxiety, hope, fear, which may
interfere with Thy love. Open my whole
heart to receive Thee; let nothing shut
Thee out, nothing be shut to Thee. Thou
alone canst fit my heart for Thyself;
cleanse it wholly by Thy Spirit, that it may
wholly love Thee; be wholly filled with
Thee; wholly penetrated, enlightened,
warmed, by Thee; that Thou mayest dwell
in it forever, and it may love Thee with
Thine own love in it everlastingly—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O GOD, our heavenly Father, renew in us the sense of Thy gracious Presence, and let it be a constant impulse within us to peace, trustfulness, and courage on our pilgrimage. Let us hold Thee fast with a loving and adoring heart, and let our affections be fixed on Thee, that so the unbroken communion of our hearts with Thee may accompany us whatsoever we do, through life and in death. Teach us to pray heartily; to listen for Thy voice within, and never to stifle its warnings. Behold, we bring our poor hearts as a sacrifice unto Thee: come and fill Thy sanctuary and suffer nought impure to enter there. O Thou Who art Love, let Thy Divine Spirit flow like a river through our whole souls, and lead us in the right way till we pass by a peaceful death into the Land of Promise—Amen.

—*Gerhard Tersteegen.*

O GOD, the Father of Consolation, let me neither desire anything against Thy will, nor in disappointment seek comfort away from Thee; but, knowing Thy will to comprehend what is best, in both my own life and my neighbor's, and in that of all creatures, let me ever resign myself to Thy disposal, who out of evil bringest good, and to whom our prayer should be in perfect peace. Give us what Thou seest fit, only fit us for what Thou givest—Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*



ALMIGHTY God, unto Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gregorian Sacramentary, A. D. 590.*

LORD, I know not what I ought to ask of Thee; Thou only knowest what I need; Thou lovest me better than I know how to love myself. O Father! give to Thy child that which he himself knows not how to ask. I dare not ask either for crosses or consolations; I simply present myself before Thee, I open my heart to Thee. Behold my needs which I know not myself; see and do according to Thy tender mercy. Smite, or heal; depress me, or raise me up; I adore all Thy purposes without knowing them; I am silent; I offer myself in sacrifice; I yield myself to Thee; I would have no other desire than to accomplish Thy will. Teach me to pray. Pray Thyself in me—Amen.

—*Francois de la Mothe Fénelón.*

LORD, I offer unto Thee all my sins and offences, which I have committed before Thee, from the day wherein I first could sin even to this hour; that Thou mayest consume and burn them, one and all, with the fire of Thy love, and do away all the stains of my sins, and cleanse my conscience from all offences, and restore to me Thy grace, fully forgiving me all, and admitting me mercifully to the kiss of peace. I offer up also unto Thee all that is good in me, though it be very small and imperfect, in order that Thou mayest amend and sanctify it, that Thou mayest make it grateful and acceptable unto Thee, and always be perfecting it more and more; and bring me also, slothful and unprofitable poor creature as I am, to a good and blessed end—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*

WE love Thee, O our God; and we desire to love Thee more and more. Grant to us that we may love Thee as much as we desire, and as much as we ought. O dearest Friend, Who hast so loved and saved us, the thought of whom is so sweet and always growing sweeter, come with Christ and dwell in our hearts; then Thou wilt keep a watch over our lips, our steps, our deeds, and we shall not need to be anxious either for our souls or our bodies. Give us love, sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Give us in our hearts pure love, born of Thy love to us, that we may love others as Thou lovest us. O most loving Father of Jesus Christ, from Whom floweth all love, let our hearts, frozen in sin, cold to Thee and cold to others, be warmed by this divine fire. So help and bless us in Thy Son—Amen.

—*St. Anselm.*

ETERNAL God, Fountain of all love, trusting in Thy love, I come before Thee, to speak to Thee, to ask Thee for Thy love. Thou knowest all I would ask Thee if I dared; Thou knowest how I would love Thee if I could; Thou knowest all I would hope of Thee, if mine own unworthiness did not keep me back. Yet Thou givest me the longing, Thou wilt give what I long for, even Thyself, whom I long for. Thou preparest the heart. Prepare my heart, O loving God, that I may long for Thee more, adore Thee more humbly, ask at least, with all the desires of my heart, all which Thou art ready to give me, which Thou hast prepared for me, if I love Thee. Make me to love Thee through all Thy love for me, through Thine own love in me—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O ETERNAL Father, help me, I beseech Thee, to bring forth in my life the fruits of the Spirit; the fruit of Love, that I may love Thee above all things, and all others in Thee and for Thy sake; the fruit of Joy, that I may find Thy service my delight; the fruit of Peace, that, pardoned and accepted through Thy mercy I may repose in Thy love; the fruit of Long-suffering, that I may bear, with patient submission to Thy will, all crosses and afflictions; the fruit of Gentleness, that I may subdue all risings of temper, and take calmly and sweetly all trials and provocations; the fruit of Meekness, that I may forgive freely all who may hurt me either by word or deed, and endure with patience all that may be laid upon me; the fruit of Temperance, that I may restrain all my desires, bringing them into subjection in all things to Thy holy will—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*

O H, Lord, unto Whom all hearts are open, Thou canst govern the vessel of my soul far better than I can. Arise, O Lord, and command the stormy wind and the troubled sea of my heart to be still, and at peace in Thee, that I may look up to Thee undisturbed, and abide in union with Thee, my Lord. Let me not be carried hither and thither by wandering thoughts; but, forgetting all else, let me see and hear Thee. Renew my spirit; kindle in me Thy light, that it may shine within me, and my heart may burn in love and adoration towards Thee. Let Thy Holy Spirit dwell in me continually, and make me Thy temple and sanctuary, and fill me with divine love and light and life, with devout and heavenly thoughts, with comfort and strength, with joy and peace—Amen.

—*Johann Arndt.*

In Time of Trouble

O LORD, by all Thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to Thee. Let us value no treatment of Thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that Thou sendest us bring us to Thee, that, knowing Thy perfectness, we may be sure in every disappointment that Thou art still loving us, and in every darkness that Thou art still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness that Thou art still using us—yea, in every death that Thou art giving us life, as in His death Thou didst give life to Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ—Amen.

—*Phillips Brooks.*

WE thank Thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of Thy sun. We thank Thee for good news received. We thank Thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed, and for those we have been able to confer. And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over our forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down. Let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience—Amen.

—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

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O LORD, let me not henceforth desire health or life, except to spend them for Thee, with Thee, and in Thee. Thou alone knowest what is good for me; do, therefore, what seemeth to Thee best. Give to me, or take from me; conform my will to Thine; and grant that with humble and perfect submission, and in holy confidence, I may receive the orders of Thine eternal Providence; and may equally adore all that comes from Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Pascal.*



GRANT unto us, we beseech Thee, O Almighty God, that we, who seek the shelter of Thy protection, being defended from all evils, may serve Thee in peace and quietness of spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Roman Breviary.*

BLESSED art all Thy saints, my God and King, who have traveled over the tempestuous sea of mortality, and have at last made the desired port of peace and felicity. O, cast a gracious eye upon us who are still in our dangerous voyage. Remember and succor us in our distress, and think on them that lie exposed to the rough storms of troubles and temptations. Strengthen our weakness, that we may do valiantly in this spiritual war; help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts. We are exceedingly frail, and indisposed to every virtuous and gallant undertaking. Grant, O Lord, that we may bring our vessel safe to shore, unto our desired haven—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*

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BE merciful unto me, O Lord;
For unto Thee do I cry all the day
long.

Rejoice the soul of Thy servant;
For unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up my
soul.

For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to
forgive,

And abundant in loving-kindness unto all
them that call upon Thee.

Give ear, O Jehovah, unto my prayer;
And hearken unto the voice of my suppli-
cations.

In the day of my trouble I will call upon
Thee;

For Thou wilt answer me.

—*David.*

O GOD, Almighty and Merciful, who healest all those that are broken in heart, and turnest the sadness of the sorrowful to joy; let Thy fatherly goodness be upon all that Thou hast made. Especially we beseech Thee to remember in pity such as are this day destitute, homeless, or forgotten of their fellow-men. Bless the congregation of Thy poor. Uplift those who are cast down, mightily befriend innocent sufferers and sanctify to them the endurance of their wrongs. Cheer with hope all discouraged and unhappy people, and by Thy heavenly grace preserve from falling those whose penury tempteth them to sin. Though they be troubled on every side, suffer them not to be distressed, though they be perplexed, save them from despair. Grant this, O Lord, for the love of Him who for our sakes became poor, Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ—Amen.

I BLESS Thee, my Father and my Friend, for all that Thou hast given me, and for all that Thou hast taken from me; for all my trials and sorrows, as well as for all my joys. Thou hast mercifully led me through this wilderness, and hast borne with my many shortcomings and evil-doings. Thou art indeed most gracious and glorious, a Father of mercies, and a God of love. Rouse this sluggish heart of mine, and fill it with gratitude. And be with me, Lord, for the time to come. I know not what is before me, but Thou knowest. Choose Thou my portion for me. Lead me by Thine own hand; and keep me close to Thee, day by day, and night by night. My Father, I wish to love and obey Thee. Take my heart, for I cannot give it to Thee; and put away everything that hinders me from being altogether Thine—Amen.

—*Ashton Oxenden.*

O LORD God, Who art our hope and our portion in the land of the living: consider our necessities; hide us under the shadow of Thy wings; keep us from all the dangers which multiply upon us when our spirits are in heaviness and our bodies pressed with infirmities; be Thou always at our right hand and assist us with the strength of Thy grace, that our temptations and trials not being beyond our power derived from Thee, our souls may with confidence repose themselves upon Thee, while life shall last and in the hour of our departure hence, and may give eternal thanks unto Thy name in the companies of the righteous; through, etc.

O RISEN Christ, Who hast gained the eternal victory of life over death, and in Whom all men are victorious, give me Thy victory over fear and bitterness. Grant me Thy victory over sorrow that in it my poor sorrows may be hidden and I be comforted. Make me to rise with Thee; and from the other world may I hear united with Thy voice the voices of those who have risen to life through Thee and who can die no more. So do Thou be my Easter comfort and my Easter joy, dear Jesus—Amen.

—*Floyd W. Tomkins.*



LORD, keep me ever near to Thee. Let nothing separate me from Thee; let nothing keep me back from Thee. If I fall, bring me back quickly to Thee, and make me hope in Thee, trust in Thee, love Thee everlastingly—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

MORE love to Thee, O Christ!
More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee;
This is my earnest plea,
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest:
Now Thee alone I seek;
Give what is best:
This all my prayer shall be,
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work,
Send grief and pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers,
Sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me,
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee!

—*Elizabeth Payson Prentice.*

MY God, I heartily thank Thee for all Thy goodness to my body and my soul. I want Thy guidance and direction in all I do. Let Thy wisdom counsel me, Thy hand lead me, and Thine arm support me. I put myself into Thy hands. Breathe into my soul holy and heavenly desires. Conform me to Thine own image. Make me like my Saviour. Enable me in some measure to live here on earth as He lived, and to act in all things as He would have acted—Amen.

—*Ashton Oxenden.*



O LORD, Who orderest all things for us in infinite wisdom and love, Who knowest my weakness, and every beating and aching of my heart, blindly I, blind, give myself unto Thy tender loving heart. Only give me grace to think, speak, act, feel, as shall please Thy love—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

O LORD God, our Governor, we beseech Thee, of Thy mercy, that we may have the heavenly vision, and behold things as they seem unto Thee, that the turmoil of this world may be seen by us to be bringing forth the sweet peace of the eternal years, and that in all the troubles and sorrows of our own hearts we may behold good, and so, with quiet mind and inward peace, careless of outward storm, we may do the duty of life which brings to us a quiet heart, ever trusting in Thee. We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercy. We beseech Thy forgiveness of all our sins. We pray Thy guidance in all things, Thy presence in the hour of death, Thy glory in the life to come. Of Thy mercy hear us, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

O LORD, my God! the amazing horrors of darkness were gathered round me, and covered me all over, and I saw no way to go forth; I felt the depth and extent of the misery of my fellow-creatures separated from the Divine harmony, and it was heavier than I could bear, and I was crushed down under it; I lifted up my hand, I stretched out my arm, but there was none to help me; I looked round about, and was amazed. In the depths of misery, O Lord, I remembered that Thou art omnipotent; that I had called Thee Father; and I felt that I loved Thee, and I was made quiet in my will, and I waited for deliverance from Thee. Thou hadst pity upon me, when no man could help me; I saw that meekness under suffering was showed to us in the most affecting example of Thy Son, and Thou taughtest me to follow Him, and I said, "Thy will, O Father, be done!"

—*John Woolman.*

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, Who hast of Thine infinite goodness ordained that the order of our life should be disquieted by many trials of heart and spirit, and Who didst decree that Thy well-beloved Son should be disciplined in the same way of hardship and pain; grant unto us, we pray Thee, in all our necessities, to repose entire confidence in Thee, to feel the assurance of Thy present love, and to walk with Thee by faith, though not by sight. May no perplexity create in us an impatient spirit,—no temptation lead us into sin,—no sorrow hide Thy loving Will from us. But do Thou so increase in us all spiritual gifts, that our very trials may lead us toward a perfect and regenerate life, and, in the days of our mortal pilgrimage, we may be sustained by a strength that is greater than our own. Through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—Henry W. Foote.

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LORD, do not permit my trials to be above my strength; and do Thou vouchsafe to be my strength and comfort in the time of trial. Give me grace to take in good part whatever shall befall me; and let my heart acknowledge it to be the Lord's doing, and to come from Thy Providence, and not by chance. May I receive everything from Thy hand with patience and with joy—Amen.

—*Thomas Wilson.*



BLESSED Healer, all our burdens lighten,
Give us peace, Thine own sweet peace,
we pray;
Keep us near Thee, till the morn shall
brighten,
And all mists and shadows flee away.

—*Canterbury Hymnal.*

AH, God! behold my grief and care.
Fain would I serve Thee with a
glad and cheerful countenance, but
I cannot do it. However much I fight and
struggle against my sadness, I am too
weak for this sore conflict. Help me in
my weakness, O Thou mighty God! and
give me Thy Holy Spirit to refresh and
comfort me in my sorrow. Amid all my
fears and griefs I yet know that I am Thine
in life and death, and that nothing can
really part me from Thee; neither things
present, nor things to come, neither trial,
nor fear, nor pain. And therefore, O Lord,
I will still trust in Thy grace. Thou wilt
not send me away unheard. Sooner or
later Thou wilt lift this burden from my
heart, and put a new song in my lips; and
I will praise Thy goodness, and thank and
serve Thee here and for evermore—Amen.

—S. Scheretz.

O HOLY and loving Father, Whose mercies are from everlasting to everlasting, we thank Thee that Thy children can flee for refuge in their afflictions to the blessed certainty of Thy love. From every grief that burdens our spirits, from the sense of solitude and loss, from the doubt and fainting of the soul in its trouble, we turn to Thee. Thou knowest our frame, Thou rememberest that we are dust. Be Thou our Strength and Deliverer; in our great need be Thou our Helper; pour Thy consolations into our hearts, and let the gospel of Thy beloved Son minister comfort and peace to our souls—Amen.

—*Henry W. Foote.*



O JESUS! Who for our sins didst bear the heavy burden of the Cross, and fell under its weight, may the thought of Thy sufferings make us watchful over ourselves and save us from any grievous fall into sin—Amen.

O GOD, Who makest cheerfulness the companion of strength, but apt to take wings in time of sorrow, we humbly beseech Thee that if, in Thy sovereign wisdom, Thou sendest weakness, yet for Thy mercy's sake deny us not the comfort of patience. Lay not more upon us, O Heavenly Father, than Thou wilt enable us to bear; and, since the fretfulness of our spirits is more hurtful than the heaviness of our burden, grant us that heavenly calmness which comes of owning Thy hand in all things, and patience in the trust that Thou doest all things well—
Amen.

—*Rowland Williams.*

LORD! when I am in sorrow I think on Thee. Listen to the cry of my heart, and my sorrowful complaint. Yet, O Father, I would not prescribe to Thee when and how Thy help should come. I will willingly tarry for the hour which Thou Thyself hast appointed for my relief. Meanwhile strengthen me by Thy Holy Spirit; strengthen my faith, my hope, my trust; give me patience and resolution to bear my trouble; and let me at last behold the time when Thou wilt make me glad with Thy grace. Ah, my Father! never yet hast Thou forsaken Thy children, forsake not me. Ever dost Thou give gladness unto the sorrowful; O give it now unto me. Always dost Thou relieve the wretched; relieve me, too, when and where and how Thou wilt. Unto Thy wisdom, love, and goodness, I leave it utterly—Amen.

—*J. F. Stark.*

O GOD, animate us to cheerfulness. May we have a joyful sense of our blessings, learn to look on the bright circumstances of our lot, and maintain a perpetual contentedness under Thy allotments. Fortify our minds against disappointment and calamity. Preserve us from despondency, from yielding to dejection. Teach us that no evil is intolerable but a guilty conscience; and that nothing can hurt us if, with true loyalty of affection, we keep Thy commandments, and take refuge in Thee—Amen.

—*William Ellery Channing.*



O GOD, Who tellest the number of the stars, and callest them all by their names: heal, we beseech Thee, the contrite in heart, and gather together the outcasts, and enrich us with the fulness of Thy wisdom; through Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Sarum Breviary.*

WE beseech Thee, O Lord, remember all for good ; have mercy upon all, O God. Remember every soul who, being in any affliction, trouble, or agony, stands in need of Thy mercy and help, all who are in necessity or distress ; all who love, or hate us.

Thou, O Lord, art the Helper of the helpless ; the Hope of the hopeless ; the Saviour of them who are tossed with tempests ; the Haven of them who sail ; be Thou All to all. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us ; prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us ; O, prosper Thou our handy-work. Lord, be Thou within me, to strengthen me ; without me, to keep me ; above me, to protect me ; beneath me, to uphold me ; before me, to direct me ; behind me, to keep me from straying ; round about me, to defend me. Blessed be Thou, O Lord, our Father, for ever and ever—Amen.

—*Lancelot Andrews.*

O GOD, Who art the Author of love and the Lover of pure peace and affection, let all who are terrified by fears, afflicted by poverty, harassed by tribulation, worn down by illness, be set free by Thine indulgent tenderness, raised up by amendment of life, and cherishd by Thy daily compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gallican Sacramentary.*



LET me lie still in suffering, dear Christ, and think of Thee. Fix my mind on Thy Cross and Passion, and make me know the bliss of being Thy companion in pain. And O, when it is hard to be calm and quiet, come Thou very, very near, and speak peace to my soul. So shall my grief be turned to joy and my heaviness to cheer—Amen.

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O LORD, our God, keep us from all darkness except such as our own foolishness brings over us. Let us remember that there is no darkness with Thee. Let us have but one thing to be afraid of—the death of the spirit. Let there be but one thing that we shrink from—unlovingness towards Thee and our brother. And when the storm is loud, and the night is dark, and the soul is sad, and the heart oppressed; then, as weary travelers, may we look to Thee; and beholding the light of Thy love, may it bear us on, until we learn to sing Thy song in the night. And when the last chill stream of death shall be crossed, grant that ours may be the Delectable Mountains, the company of faithful souls, the eternal years, the everlasting life. Of Thy great mercy hear our supplications, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

GRANT, gracious Father, that I may never dispute the reasonableness of Thy will, but ever close with it, as the best that can happen. Prepare me always for what Thy Providence shall bring forth. Let me never murmur, be dejected, or impatient, under any of the troubles of this life, but ever find rest and comfort in this, This is the will of my Father, and of my God: grant this for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

—*Thomas Wilson.*



O LORD Jesus! may it be our privilege also to bear Thy Cross; may we glory in nothing else; by it may the world be crucified unto us, and we unto the world; may we never shrink from suffering, but rather rejoice if we may be counted worthy to suffer for Thy name's sake—Amen.

202 Prayers We Love to Pray

JESUS, Lover of my soul
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high :
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past ;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee ;
Leave, ah ! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring ;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

—*Charles Wesley.*

ALMIGHTY God, Who art the Strength of all who put their trust in Thee, grant unto us in the midst of the troubles of this mortal life, that, being confident in Thy wisdom and goodness, and Thine abiding love, we may endure all things in a quiet spirit, seeking ever in the midst of the things of this world to meditate oftentimes upon the divine peace, and the heavenly rest of the glorified spirits of light; and being held up by Thy mercy, may neither faint nor fear, but pass on, doing faithfully the duties of life, and, in our last hour, supported by the Everlasting arms, we beseech Thee to guide us into the life everlasting. This we do ask, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

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O LORD, let that become possible to me by Thy grace, which by nature seems impossible to me. Thou knowest that I am able to suffer but little, and that I am quickly cast down, when a slight adversity ariseth. For Thy name's sake, let every exercise of tribulation be amiable and desirable to me; for to suffer and to be disquieted for Thy sake is very wholesome for my soul—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*



POUR into our hearts the spirit of unselfishness, so that, when our cup overflows, we may seek to share our happiness with our brethren. O Thou God of Love, Who makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and the unjust, grant that we may become more and more Thy true children by receiving into our souls more of Thy love—Amen.

—*Charles How.*

REMEMBER, O most pitying Father, what this frail and feeble work of Thine hands can bear without fainting; nothing indeed of itself, but all things in Thee, if strengthened by Thy grace. Wherefore grant me strength, that I may suffer and endure; patience alone I ask, Lord; give me this, and behold my heart is ready. O God, my heart is ready to receive whatsoever shall be laid upon me. Grant that in my patience I may possess my soul. To that end, may I often look upon the face of Christ, Thy Son, that, as He hath suffered such terrible things in the flesh, I may endeavor to be armed with the same mind. Wherefore I commit my strength unto Thee, O Lord; for Thou art my Strength and my Refuge. Keep me, and bring me safely out of this trial when it shall please Thee—Amen.

—*Treasury of Devotion.*

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, in all time of sore distress, the comfort of the forgiveness of our sins. In time of darkness give us blessed hope, in time of sickness of body give us quiet courage; and when the heart is bowed down, and the soul is very heavy, and life is a burden, and pleasure a weariness, and the sun is too bright, and life too mirthful, then may that Spirit, the Spirit of the Comforter, come upon us, and after our darkness may there be the clear shining of the heavenly light; that so, being uplifted again by Thy mercy, we may pass on through this our mortal life with quiet courage, patient hope, and unshaken trust, hoping through Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy to be delivered from death into the large life of the eternal years. Hear us of Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

O LORD, my God, be not Thou far from me; my God, have regard to help me, for there have risen up against me sundry thoughts, and great fears, afflicting my soul. How shall I pass through unhurt? How shall I break them to pieces? This is my hope, my one only consolation, to flee unto Thee in every tribulation, to trust in Thee, to call upon Thee from my inmost heart, and to wait patiently for Thy consolation—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*



HEAR my cry, O God;
Attend unto my prayer.

From the end of the earth will I call unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed:

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

—*David.*

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MY God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home in life's rough
way,

Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
"Thy will be done!"

Though dark my path, and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not,
Or breathe the prayer divinely taught,
"Thy will be done!"

What though in lonely grief I sigh
For friends beloved, no longer nigh,
Submissive still would I reply,
"Thy will be done!"

Let but my fainting heart be blest
With Thy good Spirit for its guest,
My God, to Thee I leave the rest;
"Thy will be done!"

—*Charlotte Elliott.*

O GOD, Thou only Refuge of Thy children! Who remainest true though all else should fail, and livest though all things die, cover us now when we fly to Thee. Rebuke within us all immoderate desires, all unquiet temper, all presumptuous expectations, all ignoble self-indulgence: and feeling on us the embrace of Thy Fatherly hand, may we meekly and with courage go into the darkest ways of our pilgrimage; anxious not to change Thy perfect will, but only to do and bear it worthily. May we spend all our days as in Thy presence, and meet our death in the strength of Thy promise, and pass hence into the nearer light of Thy knowledge and Thy love—Amen.

—*James Martineau.*



O JESUS! grant us to embrace with meekness and cheerful submission the difficulties of our state, and to be ever ready to take up our cross and follow Thee—Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Lord of the storm and of the calm, the vexed sea and the quiet haven, of day and of night, of life and of death,—grant unto us so to have our hearts stayed upon Thy faithfulness, Thine unchangingness and love, that, whatsoever betide us, however black the cloud or dark the night, with quiet faith trusting in Thee, we may look upon Thee with untroubled eye, and walking in lowliness towards Thee, and in lovingness towards one another, abide all storms and troubles of this mortal life, beseeching Thee that they may turn to the soul's true good. We ask it for Thy mercy's sake, shown in Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

WRITE Thy blessed name, O Lord,
upon my heart, there to remain
so indelibly engraven that no
prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move
me from Thy love. Be Thou to me a
strong Tower of defence, a Comforter in
tribulation, a Deliverer in distress, a very
present Help in trouble, and a Guide to
heaven through the many temptations and
dangers of this life—Amen.

—*Thomas à Kempis.*



BY that forgiving tenderness, O Lord,
wherewith Thou didst ever wait for me;
by that tender love wherewith, whenever I
wandered, Thou watchest over me; by
Thine infinite love, wherewith Thou will-
est that I should love Thee eternally; give
me love like Thine, that I may forgive,
compassionate, love like Thee—Amen.

—*E. B. Pusey.*

ALMIGHTY God! our Heavenly Father, Who hast given us in Thy Son Jesus Christ a fountain of life, which, springing up within us, can make all things new, we thank Thee for the deeper meaning which He gives to life—for the quickened sense of duty, the faith under sorrow, the immortal hopes, which we owe to Him. And we pray that His divine instructions may be so received by us with grateful hearts, that no resistance of ours may hinder His freely working within us a miracle as when He changed the water into wine. In the power of His Spirit, may our griefs be transformed into consolations—our infirmities into strength to do well—our sins into repentance—our fainting and halting spirits into an heavenly mind; and, finally, the doubts, the discouragements, the trials, of this earthly life, into the full assurance and unclouded bliss of an eternal life with Thee, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Henry W. Foote.*

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, Who art the Strength of the weak, the Refreshment of the weary, the Comfort of the sad, the Help of the tempted, the Life of the dying, the God of patience and of all consolation; Thou knowest full well the inner weakness of our nature, how we tremble and quiver before pain, and cannot bear the cross without Thy Divine help and support. Help me, then, O eternal and pitying God, help me to possess my soul in patience, to maintain unshaken hope in Thee, to keep that childlike trust which feels a Father's heart hidden beneath the cross; so shall I be strengthened with power according to Thy glorious might, in all patience and long-suffering; I shall be enabled to endure pain and temptation, and, in the very depth of my suffering, to praise Thee with a joyful heart—Amen.

—*Johann Habermann.*

LORD God Almighty, Christ the King of Glory, Who art our true Peace and Love eternal, enlighten our souls with the brightness of Thy peace, and purify our consciences with the sweetness of Thy love, that we may with peaceful hearts wait for the Author of peace, and in the adversities of this world may ever have Thee for our Guardian and Protector, and so being fenced about by Thy care, may heartily give ourselves to the love of Thy peace—Amen.



ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, the Comfort of the sad, the Strength of sufferers, let the prayers of those that cry out of any tribulation come unto Thee; that all may rejoice to find that Thy mercy is present with them in their afflictions; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

—*Gelasian.*

Life's Sunset

O FATHER, support me all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and my work is done.

Then, dear Father, in Thy mercy grant me a safe lodging, a holy rest, and a peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son and my Lord—Amen.

—*J. Henry Newman.*



O MERCIFUL God, Who hast appointed unto all men once to die, but hast concealed from all the hour of their death; grant that passing all my days in righteousness and holiness, I may at length depart out of this life in Thy faith and fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

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GRANT unto us, Almighty God, that when our vision fails, and our understanding is darkened; when the ways of life seem hard, and the brightness of life is gone—to us grant the wisdom that deepens faith when the sight is dim, and enlarges trust when the understanding is not clear. And whensoever Thy ways in nature or in the soul are hard to be understood, then may our quiet confidence, our patient trust, our loving faith in Thee, be great, and as children knowing that they are loved, cared for, guarded, kept, may we with a quiet mind at all times put out trust in the unseen God. So may we face life without fear, and death without fainting; and, whatsoever may be in the life to come, give us confident hope that whatsoever is best for us both here and hereafter is Thy good pleasure and will be Thy law—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

WE thank Thee for the dear and faithful dead, for those who have made the distant heavens a Home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. One by one Thou dost gather the scattered families out of the earthly light into the heavenly glory, from the distractions and strife and weariness of time to the peace of eternity. We thank Thee for the labors and the joys of these mortal years. We thank Thee for our deep sense of the mysteries that lie beyond our dust, and for the eye of faith which Thou hast opened for all who believe in Thy Son to outlook that mark. May we live altogether in Thy Faith and Love, and in that Hope which is full of Immortality—Amen.

—*Rufus Ellis.*

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AS the days hasten, as the years are drawing nigh, when we, too, shall soon pass, give to us tokens and premonitions of our own acceptance. Grant that more and more the cords which make earth so precious may be ready to part, so that there may be nothing here to hold us when we should go, everything there to draw us when we should rise. When death comes, may we neither dread nor hate it, but with the eye of faith see its inward heart and nature. O Thou Who hast died for us, and in Whom we live, by Whom our sins are cleansed away, give us unclouded faith! O Thou Who art Prince and Saviour, save us now, in dying and beyond; and bring us into the infinite joy of Thy Father's kingdom, where we shall praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—Amen.

—*Henry Ward Beecher,*

WE ask not, O Father, for health or life. We make an offering to Thee of all our days. Thou hast counted them. We would know nothing more. All we ask is to die rather than live unfaithful to Thee; and if it be Thy will that we depart, let us die in patience and love. Almighty God, Who holdest in Thy hand the keys of the grave to open and close it at Thy will, give us not life, if we shall love it too well. Living or dying, we should be Thine—Amen.

—*Francois de la Mothe Fénelón.*

220 Prayers We Love to Pray

THOU Who hast made my home of
 life so pleasant,
 Leave not its tenant when its walls
 decay;
O Love Divine, O Helper ever present,
 Be Thou my strength and stay!

Be near me when all else is from me drifting:
 Earth, sky, home's pictures, days of
 shade and shine,
And kindly faces to my own uplifting
 The love that answers mine.

I have but Thee, my Father! let Thy
 Spirit
 Be with me then to comfort and uphold;
No gate of pearl, no branch of palm I
 merit,
Nor street of shining gold.

—Whittier.

O LORD, our God, under the shadow of Thy wings let us hope. Thou wilt support us, both when little, and even to gray hairs. When our strength is of Thee, it is strength; but, when our own, it is feebleness. We return unto Thee, O Lord, that from their weariness our souls may rise towards Thee, leaning on the things which Thou hast created, and passing on to Thyself, Who hast wonderfully made them; for with Thee is refreshment and true strength—Amen.

—*St. Augustine.*



ALMIGHTY God, grant unto us Thy love, that we may greatly rejoice; that we, knowing trouble, and acquainted with grief, may, through the goodly deliverance of faith and hope, come to the large joy of the peace that passeth all understanding—Amen.

—*George Dawson.*

OUR Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the blessed communion of all Thy saints, wherein Thou givest us also to have part. We remember before Thee all who have departed this life in Thy faith and love, and especially those most dear to us. We thank Thee for our present fellowship with them, for our common hope, and for the promise of future joy. O, let the cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before, and entered into rest, be to us for an example of Godly life, and even now may we be refreshed with their joy; that so with patience we may run the race that yet remains before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and obtain an entrance into the everlasting kingdom, the glorious assembly of the saints, and with them ever worship and adore Thy glorious name, world without end—Amen.

—*Book of Prayer.*

OUR Father, unto Thee, in the light of our Saviour's blessed Life, we would lift our souls. We thank Thee for that true Light shining in our world with still increasing brightness. We thank Thee for all who have walked therein, and especially for those near to us and dear, in whose lives we have seen this excellent glory and beauty. May we know that in the body and out of the body they are with Thee, and that when these earthly days come to an end, it is not that our service of Thee and of one another may cease, but that it may begin anew. Make us glad in all who have faithfully lived; make us glad in all who have peacefully died. Lift us into light and love and purity and blessedness, and give us at last our portion with those who have trusted in Thee and sought, in small things as in great, in things temporal and things eternal, to do Thy holy will—Amen.

—*Rufus Ellis.*

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THE day, O Lord, is spent;
Abide with us and rest;
Our hearts' desires are fully bent,
On making Thee our Guest.

We have not reached that land,
That happy land, as yet,
Where holy angels round Thee stand,
Whose sun can never set.

Our sun is sinking now;
Our day is almost o'er;
O Sun of Righteousness, do Thou
Shine on us evermore.

—John Mason Neale.



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